WASHTENAW

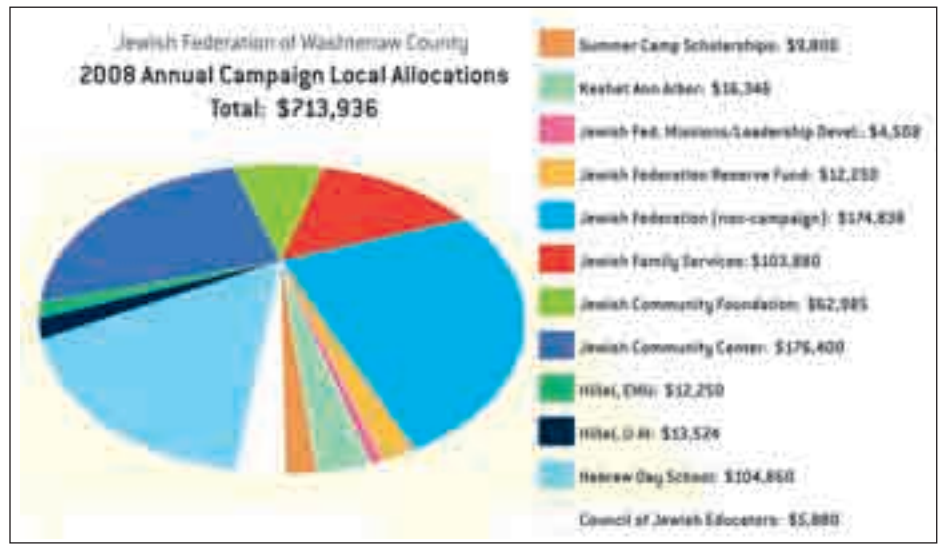
JEWISH NEWS

June/July/August 2008 Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz/Av Volume XXXII: Number 9 FREE

More than $1.8 million allocated for needs local and abroad

Jeffrey Lazor and Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

Following a year of celebrating Jewish life, the Jewish Federation successfully raised and allocated funds to support activities locally and abroad. Over 1,500 families and community members contributed to a combined Annual Campaign and Matching Grant Fund of over $1.8 million. The 2008 Campaign, chaired by Susan Fisher and Dr. Gary Freed, focused on all the positive aspects of Jewish life that the community enjoys and supports through their generous giving. President-elect Fisher, who had the unique opportunity to both co-chair the campaign and serve on the allocations committee, commented that "throughout the campaign we lived the theme of 'Celebrating Jewish Life,' spanning the events associated with the campaign, gathering together at the phone-a-thons, working with our generous donors, and finally, the pleasure of allocating funds locally and in Israel."



The 2008 Campaign saw over 150 new and renewed pledges and a nearly 10 percent increase in major donors. The Matching Fund, which was spurred by an anonymous gift, coupled with the generous support of 14 local families, raising $100,000 to fund local projects that are not otherwise included in the Annual Campaign Allocation.

"Michigan has been particularly hard hit during the current downturn, so the fact that our campaign has remained stable is pretty remarkable," commented Allocations co-chair Stacey Lee. Washtenaw United Way, which fundraises in a similar fashion to the Federation, saw a 13 percent decline in their annual efforts last year. "The dedication of our community to helping others through the annual campaign, given the current financial climate, was both inspirational and humbling. I feel very proud to be a part of this community," remarked Dr. Freed.

Even with a stable campaign, the Allocations Committee, co-chaired by Susan Gross and Stacey Lee, had some difficult decisions to make. "The needs increase every year, and we do our best to fairly disperse the funds," said Gross. "Fortunately, the additional $100,000 from the matching fund will help offset some of the projects we simply could not afford to support through our Annual dollars," continued Gross. Twelve local agencies and projects received $1.7 million. These dollars support everything from scholarships for formal and informal Jewish education, to programs for Jewish older adults, and emergency relief for local families in crisis.

In the coming months the Federation will send all donors a full listing of allocation decisions. A full allocations report will soon be available online at http://www.jewishannarbor.org/. For more information, contact Eileen Freed at 677-0100. ■

Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan at JCC July 15

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Each year the Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan spends a day entertaining and educating the campers at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Camp Raanana, followed by an evening performance at the JCC, sponsored by the Benard L. Maas Foundation. The Friendship Caravan is part of a delegation of approximately 100 scouts who travel to North America each summer to represent the land of Israel. Using song, dance, and storytelling, the Israeli Scouts celebrate the Jewish heritage and bring the sights and sounds of Israel to life.

This summer the Israeli Scouts will be performing at the JCC on Tuesday, July 15. The evening will start at 6 p.m. with a pizza dinner, followed at 7 p.m. by an all-ages performance by the Israeli Scouts.

The performance is free and the cost for the pizza dinner is $5 per person ($15 per family) for JCC members and camp families, or $7 per person ($21 per family) for others. Reservations are required by Thursday, July 10. Registration forms will be available at www.jccannarbor.org and at the JCC. ■

Jewish Federation welcomes new executive director

Jeffrey Lazor and Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County has selected David Shtulman as executive director. Most recently the director of agency endowments at the United Jewish Federation in Pittsburgh, Shtulman has spent his professional career serving the global Jewish community.

"David brings a depth of experience and knowledge that will help continue to move our community towards a strong future. I look forward to working closely with him," said Susan Fisher, incoming Federation board president. Shtulman was introduced to the community at the Federation's Annual Meeting on May 29.

Shtulman and his family lived in Israel from 1981 to 1988, where they were founders of Moshav Shorashim in Galilee. While there, he worked in the medical electronics field and participated in programs to foster better Arab-Jewish relations in the region. He also served as a combat engineer in the Israel Defense Forces. Shtulman previously served as the executive director of the American Jewish Committee, Pittsburgh Chapter, and at the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh for seven year as their assistant director of planning and allocations, and their community relations associate.

David Shtulman

"David is a very well respected and recognized Jewish professional, and we are thrilled that he decided to join our organization in this very important capacity," said Malcolm Cohen, current Federation board president.

Much of the credit for recruiting Shtulman belongs to the Search Committee headed by Prue Rosenthal and comprising a diverse cross section of the community. "This was an exhaustive process; but well worth the time and effort to have found such a wonderful individual who fits our community well and has the background David brings," remarked Rosenthal.

Shtulman is a graduate of the University of Maryland at Baltimore where he received a master of social work and he holds a master of arts in Jewish Studies from the Baltimore Hebrew Institute. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from State University of New York.

David and his wife Debbie have two grown children—Ari, a computer design engineer in Silicon Valley, and Tal, also a Jewish communal professional currently employed by the Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore. Shtulman said he is "thrilled to be a part of the future of this community." ■

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Host families sought for Israeli counselors

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Each year Camp Raanana, the Washtenaw Jewish Community Center's outdoor day camp for children entering grades kindergarten through eight, is happy to have two Israeli *shlichim* (cultural emissaries). *Shlichim* are talented young Israelis who have finished their military service and have chosen to spend their summers serving as counselors and Israeli specialists at camps across North America. Camp Raanana's *shlichim* not only have a wonderful impact on the campers, but also provide the local families serving as their hosts with an unparalleled experience, according to past host families.

Barak Herscowitz

Carol Lessure, whose family hosted Barak Herscowitz of Haifa, last summer, reports that Herscowitz quickly became part of the family and captivated her two young sons with his stories of Israeli life. "When we volunteered to host one of the *shlichim* last summer, I wasn't sure our location and modest accommodations would be sufficient. In fact, Camp Rannana assured us that all the *shlichim* need is a private place to sleep and some refrigerator space. What you receive in return is a life experience."

Lessure and the Camp Raanana community are eager to welcome Herscowitz back for another year as the camp's Israeli specialist. Herscowitz finished his army service more than a year ago, after serving as a search and rescue teacher, and is planning to start college next year. He likes hiking in his beautiful native Israel and encourages everyone to come see Israel's breathtaking countryside. Herscowitz also enjoys parties, music, theatre, and reading. He can't wait to return to Ann Arbor and Camp Raanana, where he especially enjoyed Shabbat activities, the Israeli Scouts performance, the field trips, and the cool campers. Together with the camp's music specialist, Herscowitz teaches campers about Jewish culture, Israel, and the Hebrew language. He says, "Get ready—I'm coming back all the way from Israel and we're going to have an awesome summer!"

Tiki Sasson

Camp Raanana is also pleased to welcome Tiki Sasson of Yaffo. Sasson, who has a weak spot for Israeli chocolate, will be serving as the counselor for campers entering fifth grade in the fall. Sasson majored in biology in high school in Tel Aviv before becoming a lieutenant in the Israeli Air Force. She spent last summer as a counselor at a day camp in Chicago and says she had the time of her life. Sasson is looking forward to meeting all the campers and having a fun and exciting summer.

These two *shlichim* will be arriving in Ann Arbor on June 13 and staying for approximately nine weeks. Families can volunteer to host for two to four weeks, and Camp Raanana is seeking at least three host families for each of the shlichim. Note that Sasson would like to stay in a kosher or vegetarian home.

Contact Camp Director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990 as soon as possible to learn more about serving as a host to Sasson or Herscowitz. To find out more about Camp Raanana, visit http://www.CampRaanana.com. ■

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The deadline for the *Washtenaw Jewish News Guide to Jewish Life* is Monday, June 16.
Publication date: August 2008.

Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

JFS welcomes new Older Adult Services staff

Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services has added three new staff members to their Older Adult Services Department. Allison Pollock, MSW, will be serving as the Geriatric Social Worker. She will be working with seniors and their families to provide case management, grief and crisis counseling, advocacy, information, referrals, assessments, transportation arrangements, and more. Pollock received her masters in social work from Yeshiva University, along with a certificate in Jewish communal service. She comes to JFS with years of experience working with older adults both locally (through Neighborhood Senior Services) as well as in Toronto and Israel, where she worked with diverse clients including older adults with dementia, family caregivers, immigrants, and nursing home residents.

Allison Pollock

Sherri Kantor, LMSW, will be serving as a contractual social worker in the JFS Older Adult Services Department. She will be involved with case management, the Elderlink program, and outreach for JFS. Kantor is a medical/geriatric social worker and graduate of the University of Michigan School of Social Work, with years of experience in her own care management practice, as well as hospice and home care. As long-time residents of Ann Arbor, Kantor, her husband Allyn, and their children have participated in a number of community activities and organizations, and are longstanding members of Temple Beth Emeth. Kantor looks forward to her work with the JFS community.

Sherri Kantor

Merrill Poliner, MSW, joins Jewish Family Services as the coordinator of the SPICE (Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational) Program held at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. She recently received her MSW from the University of Michigan, where she completed a field placement in medical social work and a practicum in clinical psychology with children and mothers exposed to family violence. She also has an MBA from the University of Michigan, which she used in her previous career in computer information systems and finance. She, her husband, and their two sons are long-time residents of Ann Arbor.

Merrill Poliner

The Jewish Family Services Older Adult Services Department is headed by Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson, MSW, Ph.D. For more information about services available to seniors, contact JFS at 769-0209. ■

Don't face the hospital alone

JFS launches Patient Partners

Deborah Renner and AbigaiLawrence Jacobson, special to the WJN

Older adults often are overwhelmed and confused by today's medical system. Whether at regular doctors' appointments or during emergency hospitalizations, older adults benefit from having someone there to take notes and remind them of their questions for doctors. Jewish Family Services' newest initiative, Patient Partners, is designed to personalize the medical experience by providing trained volunteers to accompany older adults to medical appointments and hospitalizations with the goal that older adults will not have to interact with the medical establishment alone.

Jewish Family Services (JFS) is one of only a handful of organizations in the nation to offer this important service, which has been identified as one of the top needs among older adults and their caregivers, particularly when family members live far away or are unable to take time from work to accompany an older adult to medical appointments. The initial program will be funded through a grant from the Anna Botsford Bach Fund for Seniors of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Volunteer "patient partners" will ensure that seniors' health-related concerns are satisfactorily addressed and that medical professionals' instructions are understood. With the support of a patient partner, older adults will have a companion to guarantee that the outcome of each medical appointment is recorded clearly for the benefit of the older adult and his or her family caregivers.

Patient partner volunteers will undergo extensive training in active listening skills, understanding the medical system, recognizing the physical and emotional needs of older adults, communicating with family members, and medical-legal issues. This training will be provided by social workers, healthcare professionals, and attorneys. JFS will accommodate a variety of schedules; monthly to weekly commitments are welcome. Ideal candidates for patient partner volunteers have flexibility in their schedule to be "on call" on certain days and times. Patient partner volunteer positions are open to any adults interested in working with older adults.

Jewish Family Services is currently recruiting for both potential patient partner volunteers as well as for a patient partner volunteer manager. The patient partner volunteer manager will be a volunteer leadership position, working closely with the JFS volunteer coordinator to screen, interview, train, and manage the patient partner volunteers. The patient partner volunteer manager should have experience in either working with volunteers or in the social work or health care fields. Screening and interviews are ongoing, with training to be conducted in the fall. ■

For more information about Patient Partners or to be considered for one of these volunteer positions, contact Deborah Renner, Jewish Family Services volunteer coordinator, at 769.0209 or Deborah@jfsannarbor.org.

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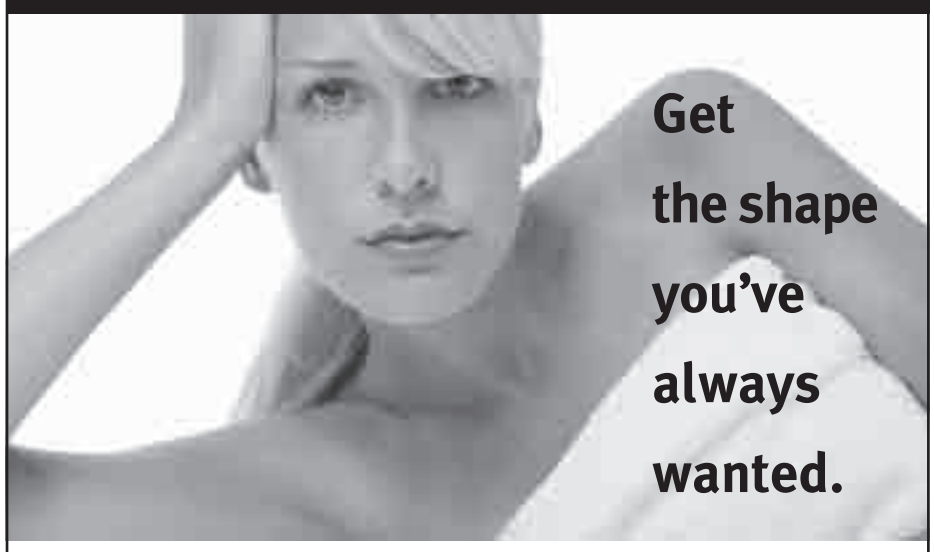

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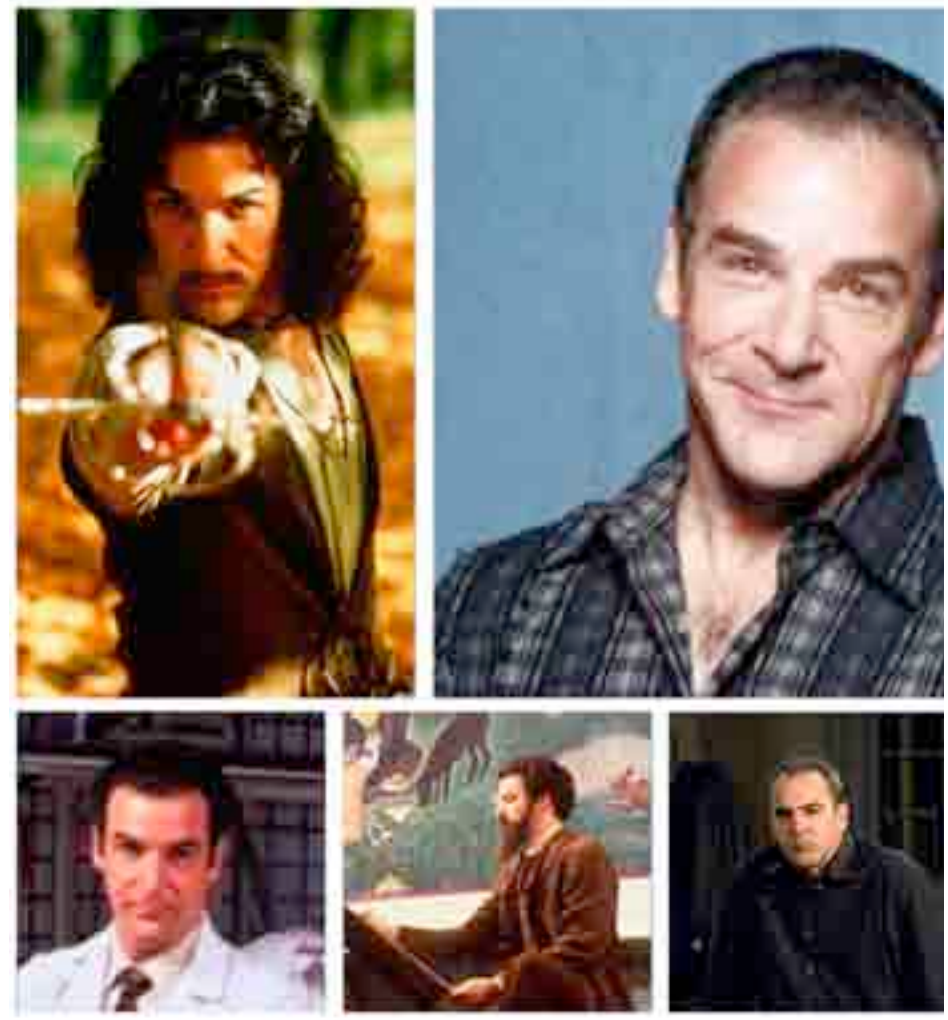
Arts & Culture

Ann Arbor Summer Festival presents Mandy Patinkin in concert

WJN *staff writers*

On Saturday, June 28, at 8 p.m., Mandy Patinkin will perform his interpretations of both traditional folk tunes and popular standards from Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Harry Chapin, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter, accompanied by Paul Ford on piano.

To some fans, Patinkin is the Tony Award-winning revolutionary from *Evita* who grew into a bona fide Broadway star in *Sunday in the Park with George*. To others, he's the Emmy Award-winning Best Actor, for his portrayal of Dr. Jeffrey Geiger in CBS's *Chicago Hope*, or the star of the new CBS drama, *Criminal Minds*. To some, he's Madonna's piano man in *Dick Tracy* or the scholar who made Streisand swoon in *Yentl*. And to others still, he will always be Inigo Montoya, the swashbuckling swordsman in *The Princess Bride*.



Patinkin's live performances have received wide critical acclaim. Pamela Sommers of the *Washington Post* wrote, "The most arresting thing about Patinkin is the conversational, often impassioned quality of his singing… you find yourself listening like you've never listened before." Clive Barnes of the *New York Post* called Patinkin "the greatest entertainer on Broadway today – period." In the *New York Daily News*, Howard Kissel called his performance, "the most exciting time I've had in the theatre in ages. He could single-handedly revive the American musical theatre." And the *London Evening Standard* called him, "a master entertainer of a type once thought to be extinct."

Patinkin began his concert career in 1989, coinciding with the release of his first solo album, *Mandy Patinkin*. Since then he has toured extensively, singing to sold-out audiences across the United States, Canada, London, and Australia. In 1990 he released his second solo album, *Mandy Patinkin In Concert: Dress Casual*. His 1994 recording, *Experiment*, features songs from nine decades of popular music from Irving Berlin to Alan Menken. In 1998 he debuted his most personal project, *Mamaloshen*, a collection of traditional, classic and contemporary songs sung entirely in Yiddish. The recording of *Mamaloshen* won the Deutschen Schallplattenpreis (Germany's equivalent of the Grammy Award). In 2001, Patinkin released *Kidults*, a collection of beloved songs, designed—as the title suggests—for the kid in every adult. A year later he released *Mandy Patinkin Sings Sondheim*, a figurative journey through Sondheim's music and lyrics. ■

For more information, visit the Ann Arbor Summer Festival website: www.annarborsummerfestival.org.

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June

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Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3 per person

1 p.m. Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker.

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Speaking Group, at the U-M Michigan League. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for more information.

Wednesdays

10 a.m. –Noon. Music Appreciation and Exploration – a WCC Special Community Group Education Course. Join facilitator Ken Kozora in listening to, discussing and comparing music from around the world throughout the ages. Free. Minimum 10 participants. Class began May 7 and ends June 18. Register with instructor at first class.

Thursdays

11 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, or 3 session for $10.

11 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. A Jewish Perspective on each week's news.

Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3 per person.

1 p.m. Thursday Special Events and Presentations, See below for details.

2:15 p.m. Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky

Fridays

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Reading Group. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for location

Thursday Special Events and Presentations

June 5: Birthdays and the making of An American Opera.

12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration! Congratulations will go out to those who are 80 years old or more. Families are invited to join in for cake and ice cream.

1 p.m. Tom McPhee (producer, director and owner of Cave Studio) will discuss and show clips from his recent award-winning documentary An American Opera. Filmed during McPhee's 18-month stay in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina, this documentary follows the story of tens of thousands of house pets who were left to perish across the gulf when their owners were forced to evacuate without them.

June 12: "Let's Hear It" Internet TV Show

1 p.m. Over the course of 12 months, Tom McPhee will interview 10,000 seniors across the country using his unique "3QU" short-form interview style. This is your chance to be heard as the JCC hosts McPhee's "Let's Hear It" Internet TV show, which will be distilled into his newest film documentary project, My Senior Year. Come as interviewees and as viewers.

June 19: Israel: A Nation is Born, Part 1

1 p.m. Celebrate @ 60 with a look back in film and in discussion at how Israel was established from the rise of Zionism to 1948. Israel: A Nation is Born features Abba Eban.

June 26: Sing-Along

1 p.m. Join Sue Wagner in a rousing sing-along accompanied on the piano.

Chaverim B'Shirim "Friends in Song"

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All session are FREE.

July

Tuesdays

11 a.m. – Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10

Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3 per person

1 p.m. Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker.

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Fridays

July 4, 11, 18, and 25

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Reading Group Call Ray Juni for location at 761-2765.

Thursday special events and presentations

July 3: Birthdays and Israel: A Nation is Born, Part 2

12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration for all with July birthdays! Families and friends are invited to join in for cake and ice cream.

1 p.m. Celebrate Israel@60 with a film and discussion looking at how Israel was created as a state from 1948–1956.

July 10: Trapshooting as a Hobby

1 p.m. Sid Lawrence, trapshooting enthusiast, will discuss "What's a Jewish boy from Brooklyn doing at the shooting range?" Come learn about the fun of trapshooting and how to enjoy the sport safely.

July 17: A Healthy Way to be Sick

1 p.m. Marc Lerner will discuss a healthy way to deal with disability or chronic illness from the viewpoint of his own experiences coping with MS. Hear about his book-in-progress, A Healthy Way to Be Sick.

July 24: Normal Memory Loss vs. Dementia
1 p.m. What is normal memory loss, and what is dementia? What are the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's and other related diseases? Guest speaker TBA.

July 31: Sing-Along

1 p.m. Join Sue Wagner in a sing-along of old favorites, with piano accompaniment.

August

Tuesdays

11 a.m. – **Fitness Fun** with Maria Farquhar $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10

Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3 per person

1 p.m. Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker.

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Speaking Group, at the U-M Michigan League. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for more information.

Thursdays

11 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, or 3 session for $10.

11 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. A Jewish Perspective on each week's news.

Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3 per person.

1 p.m. Thursday Special Events and Presentations, See below for details.

2:15 p.m. Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky

Fridays

August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Reading Group Call Ray Juni for location at 761-2765.

Thursday special events and presentations

August 7: Birthdays and Digital TV

12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration for all with August birthdays. Families and friends are invited to enjoy cake and ice cream.

1 p.m. The Conversion to HDTV – A speaker from WFUM, the University of Michigan television station, will discuss the myths and realities of the various options available to make the switch to digital TV. After the presentation, a SPICE program representative will be available to help participants sign up for a conversion box coupon from the state.

August 14: A Matter of Balance

1 p.m. Do you have concerns about difficulty with walking, balance, falls and endurance? What changes can be made in your lifestyle to minimize falls? Special guest speaker TBA.

August 21: Performance of music by Jewish composers

1 p.m. University of Michigan vocal performance faculty member, Caroline Hilton, will perform music by popular Jewish composers.

August 28: A Trio of Young, Talented Musicians

1 p.m. Three Ann Arbor high school and college students will perform on the violin, flute and classical guitar.

Tikkun Olam book club

Martha Kransdorf is launching a Tikkun Olam ("repairing the world") discussion group this fall, to meet on Sunday mornings as determined by the group. Suggested book discussion titles include:

Judaism and Justice:
The Jewish Passion to Repair the World
by Rabbi Sidney Schwartz

Righteous Indignation:
A Jewish Call for Justice
edited by Rabbi Or Rose, Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, and Margie Klein

The Way into Tikkun Olam
by Rabbi Elliot Dorff

Holiness in Words; Abraham Joshua Heschel's Poetics of Piety
by Edward K. Kaplan

This list is not yet finalized. Those interested in the group are encouraged to suggest new and alternate titles worthy of discussion. Contact Martha Kransdorf (mkransdo@umich.edu or 663-7933) for further information.

New group forming to support your Jewish meditation practice

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Meditation involves training one's awareness to bring the body and mind into greater harmony. Some practitioners use meditation to find a sense of oneness with God, while others seek to reduce stress or relieve stress-related ailments, such as anxiety disorders or high blood pressure.

Interested parties are invited to come and strive for calm and clarity in a hectic world with a group of peers interested in forming a monthly group to support these practices. Day and evening meditation sessions are held once per month in the Temple Beth Emeth Chapel:

- Evening: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30–8:30 p.m.
- Daytime: 4th Friday of the month, 1–2 p.m.

These groups are for those who are experienced in meditation. People interested in learning to meditate should contact Lynn Sipher at lynnsipher@gmail.com.

Tamarack makes campers out of alumni, families

Carly Leipsitz, special to the WJN

Tamarack Camps will host its first Alumni Family Fun Day at Camp Maas in Ortonville on June 22, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. The event, which kicks off the summer before campers arrive, will welcome Tamarack Camps and Fresh Air Society alumni and friends to enjoy a day at camp, rain or shine.

Activities planned include waterskiing, tubing, kayaking and canoeing, organized sporting games, climbing walls and ropes course initiatives, campfires and s'mores, arts and crafts, horseback riding and more. A BBQ lunch will be served and specific times for gatherings of past decades of campers and staff will be arranged for photographs.

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Congregations

Our children will be our guarantors

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The Midrash relates that before God gave the Torah to the Jewish people, He asked for guarantors. The nation offered several options – the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Moses and the other prophets –but God rejected them all. The people then volunteered, "Our children will be our guarantors."

God agreed and gave them the Torah.

On one hand, the concept is obvious: If you want an idea or a practice to be perpetuated, you must involve youth. Perhaps the point of the Midrash is the nature of the involvement asked of our children. Often people say, "I will show my children an approach. I'm sure that they'll appreciate that it's good. But I won't force them. I'll let them make up their own minds."

Judaism takes a much different tack. Before the Jews received the Torah at Mount Sinai, they told God, "We will do and we will listen," making a commitment to observe the Torah before they knew what God was commanding them.

This practice is mirrored in the way we train our children to approach the Torah. The first thing is the actual deed. They observe the mitzvot without understanding their rationale. Instead, they grow up practicing them as an integral part of their existence. They do not see Judaism as merely a set of beliefs whose value they comprehend, but a fully integrated way of life that encompasses every dimension of their existence.

"Brainwashing!" some might protest, "Denying the children free choice."

But it is not. Our children will always have a choice. They grow up in a world where material things are evident to all of us, and the existence of spiritual truth is only in books. Is there any question that they will hear the other side?

And raising them without a thorough involvement in Judaism as a way of life is also a message. It teaches them that Judaism is secondary, perhaps a nice pastime, but not one of the fundamental elements of life. What kind of choice does that leave the child?

Shavuot is the anniversary of the giving of the Torah, an appropriate time for each of us to renew and deepen our connection with it. The Lubavitcher Rebbe instituted the custom of recreating the Sinai experience by having all Jews – men, women, children, even infants – gather in the synagogue to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments on the first day of Shavuot.

Following that custom brings home the above concepts. Whether or not they understand the reading, all attending will appreciate that it is special. A child will know that even if he did not comprehend the reading, he did establish a bond with the Torah.

And the truth is that the adults should take precisely that message home. For the truth of the Torah is Godly, beyond human conception. No matter how much we do understand, there is always infinitely more which is beyond our understanding. ■

TBE congregational services director leaving

Ronnie Simon, special to the WJN

Devon Fitzig, the director of congregational services at Temple Beth Emeth since August 2003, will move to South Carolina at the end of June with her fiancé Jeff Anker who has accepted a position at Clemson University. During her five years in Ann Arbor she has made many warm personal connections with congregants and others in the community, and brought Beth Emeth's programming and services to new heights. Fitzig will be honored at Temple Beth Emeth's Shabbat service on Friday, June 13, at 7:30 pm.

Devon Fitzig

During her five years at Temple Beth Emeth, Fitzig nurtured the Caring Community program, expanding it to include subgroups for families with young children, support groups for adults with aging parents, and social groups for various demographics within the congregation. Her programs—including an expanded hospital visiting program, rides to medical appointments, meals for both new parents and families in grief, and welcome baskets for newborns— brought the congregation's membership closer.

Adult education also expanded under her attention. Fitzig's dual degree in Jewish Communal Service and Judaic Studies was an asset to both her committee work throughout the Ann Arbor Jewish community, and the classes she arranged within Temple Beth Emeth. Fitzig, along with congregant input, championed many successful Shabbaton experiences with Rabbis Lawrence Kushner, Ted Falcon, and Reuven Firestone, among others.

Temple Beth Emeth's holiday and special events, such as the annual Passover Second Night Seder, December Movie at the Michigan Theater, and special holiday programs for young families, also benefited from her leadership and enthusiasm.

While Temple Beth Emeth's members share in Fitzig's joy, they are nonetheless sorry to see her go. Join them on June 13 to honor her contribution to the community. ■

Temple Beth Emeth summer programming

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Adult Study

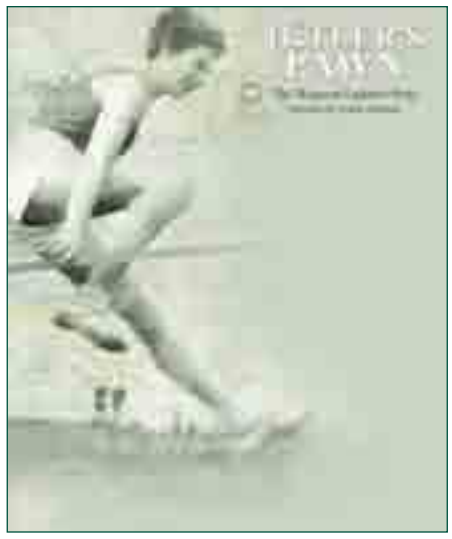
The theme "Wars of Self Defense: S'derot and Missiles from Gaza" will be topic of discussion with Rabbi Robert Levy, Sunday, June 8, at 9 p.m. Come for the discussion, and enjoy some cheesecake.

Guest from Israel

Ari Marom, past president of Kehillat Tzur Hadassah (Temple Beth Emeth's Sister Reform Temple in Israel) will speak at Shabbat Services on Friday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m. Marom works for a tour company, Vered Ha-Sharon, as vice-president of marketing and sales, North America, and worked with Rabbi Levy on his March trip to Israel. Originally from Canada, Marom made aliyah to Israel in 1972 and now serves on the national executive board of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (the Israeli Reform Movement).

Movie Tuesdays

A monthly film and discussion series held on Tuesday afternoons from 1–3 p.m. Coffee and noshes provided. Childcare is available with advanced notice. Movie Tuesdays usually occur on the third Tuesday of the month.



The last Movie Tuesday of this season is *Hitler's Pawn* (June 17, at 1 p.m., at Temple Beth Emeth) *Hitler's Pawn* is the story of young Jewish athlete, Gretel Bergmann, who was used as a pawn by Hitler in his strategy to secure American participation in the Olympics in the face of a possible boycott.

Summer Jewish Hikers events

Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community and is open to everyone. All adult couples, singles and children are welcome. The hikes take place on a monthly basis on different trails in the local area. All skill levels are welcome. Participants are encouraged to bring backpacks, munchies and drinks. Summer hikes are on Sundays, June 22, July 20, and August 17, at 11 a.m. Each hike lasts approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. For further information, contact Eli, 883-9522 or Eve, 546-9645, email jewish.hikers@gmail.com, or visit their website: www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan

Tot Play Group

Temple Beth Emeth's Tot Play group has moved to Wednesday mornings from 9–10:30 a.m. at Temple Beth Emeth. This group is for families with kids aged newborn to five years old. Older siblings, grandparents, and non-members are welcome. Those planning to attend, or interested in more information, should contact Ginger Derrow, at ginger.derrow@gmail.com.

Twenties & Thirties

Twenties and Thirties (TNT) of Temple Beth Emeth provides a welcoming, inclusive Jewish community through monthly social and cultural activities. Non-members are welcome.

For a list of upcoming events visit the Temple Beth Emeth website at http://www.templebethemeth.org/tnt, or contact them at tnt@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

TBE summer services schedule

Temple Beth Emeth's Summer services schedule begins on Friday, June 27. Lay-led services will take place every Friday at 7:30 p.m. Shabbat morning services and weekly Torah Study will not occur until late August. Shabbat Dinners, Tot Shabbat, and Shira will return in the fall.

For more information, visit www.templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

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Missing in action: Males disappear from Jewish life

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—The stereotypical portrait of a seder table with the man of the house leading the service may look out of place to the next generation of liberal Jews.

This is because outside the Orthodox world, men are becoming less and less engaged in every aspect of Jewish life, from the home to the synagogue to communal organizations.

Numerous studies show that fewer boys than girls go to non-Orthodox youth groups, religious schools or summer camps, fewer go into the rabbinate and cantorate, and fewer serve on synagogue or federation committees.

This comes as women and girls in the liberal movements are benefiting from a host of programs and initiatives aimed at increasing their Jewish involvement, from gender-neutral prayer books to the popular Jewish identity-building program for teenage girls, "Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing."

Some are calling it the feminization of liberal Judaism—but few say so out loud.

"It's not politically correct," says Brandeis University sociologist Sylvia Barack Fishman, whose new report "The Growing Gender Imbalance in American Jewish Life" gives statistical muscle to anecdotal evidence that has been piling up for several years in liberal Jewish circles.

The report published in May, will be available online June 1 at www.brandeis.edu/hbi.

Fishman notes that some experts reject the notion of a "boy crisis" in liberal Judaism. It's a particularly touchy topic for feminist scholars.

"Thirty-five years ago—when women were not ordained as rabbis, when girls in the Conservative movement celebrated a bat mitzvah on Friday night, when Orthodox girls did not receive an education remotely comparable to that of their brothers, when women were not called to the Torah for aliyot or allowed on the bimah at all—where were the headlines proclaiming a girl crisis?" wrote Rabbi Rona Shapiro, senior associate at Ma'ayan: The Jewish Women's Project, a program of the JCC in Manhattan, in a Jan. 2007 op-ed.

"Given the history of women's exclusion within the Jewish community, approaching equality should be something to celebrate, not a crisis in the making," she wrote.

For Fishman, "As soon as you say that women dominate certain aspects of Jewish life, it sounds as if you're saying, 'Let's go back to the way things were.' That's not the point of my research, but we need to look at what's happening and be honest about it."

Fishman goes further: As Jewish men outside the Orthodox fold become increasingly estranged from religious and communal life, the more likely they are to marry non-Jewish women, her report suggests. And because women usually set a home's religious tone, even if non-Jewish women are open to raising Jewish children, they will rarely do so because they are not encouraged by husbands are who are "ambivalent at best, if not downright hostile to" Jewish tradition, she says.

She concludes that the boy crisis in liberal Judaism is leading to a continuity crisis that will not be resolved until liberal Judaism finds a way to engage its boys and men.

Using hundreds of interviews she conducted for the American Jewish Committee and two of her previous books, as well as data from the 2000-2001 National Jewish Population Study, Fishman and her student co-author Daniel Parmer describe an American Jewish life increasingly populated by women.

Ironically, this increased involvement of women in liberal Jewish life does not extend to the highest levels of Jewish organizational leadership, where top professionals remain overwhelmingly male.

The dominance of women is especially apparent within the Reform movement, where decreasing numbers of boys in its post-bar mitzvah religious schools, youth groups and summer camps has caused concern. This absence goes all the way to the top levels of religious leadership: More than half of the recently ordained Reform rabbis are women, as are all this year's entering cantorial students.

To help re-engage Reform men in religious life, the Men of Reform Judaism has sponsored men's worship services at the last few movement biennials, and published a "Men's Haggadah" that more than 250 congregations ordered for Passover.

"We have women's seders, we have Rosh Hodesh groups. When do we create safe space for men to talk about their fathers, their sons, their brothers, their lives?" asks Doug Barden, the executive director of Men of Reform Judaism who is spearheading many of these initiatives.

But waiting until adulthood isn't good enough, Fishman says. Efforts must begin in early adolescence. Whereas Orthodox boys go through "rites of passage where they feel better and better about their Jewish engagement—that furniture is not being installed in the minds of non-Orthodox Jewish males," she says.

Liberal Jewish teenage boys don't have models of adult male commitment to Jewish life as do their Orthodox peers. This sets up a vicious cycle that repeats from generation to generation.

Some groups are more successful than others at attracting Jewish boys. One is B'nai Brith Youth Organization, BBYO, which claims that 47 percent of its 23,000 teen participants are male.

The group's director, Matt Grossman, says this is because BBYO chapters have always been single-sex. This model is gaining ground in liberal circles, although not without criticism.

"We can target programs to boys without throwing fake stuff out there," Grossman says. While most other non-Orthodox Jewish youth groups report declining membership, he says that BBYO has been growing by 20 percent a year.

"We tell them, we need you guys to help strengthen the Jewish world. And that resonates with them. We have guys doing what guys like, and girls doing what girls like."

Jason Wachs, BBYO's 18-year-old international president for the boys' chapters, says the concept works. "It's not cool for boys to be in touch with their emotions or care about the environment or religion when girls are around," he says. "BBYO allows them to open up."

The Orthodox world has always promoted

continues on next page

Summer 2008 at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Israeli Archaeologist to discuss the "Copper Scroll and Hyrcania's Mysterious Tunnels"

As part of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's Celebrate Israel @ 60, Beth Israel Congregation will feature Israeli archaeologist Oren Gutfeld on Sunday, June 1 at 7:45 p.m. (which is Erev Yom Yerushalayim – Jerusalem Day). He will present "The Copper Scroll and Hyrcania's Mysterious Tunnels." Could the tunnel steps at the foot of Mount Hyrcania be the steps referred to in the Copper Scroll discovered in the Qumran caves that led to the incredible temple treasures? In honor of the day, special Israeli snacks will be featured as part of the refreshments. The event is free and open to the entire community.

Tot Shavuot dinner

Families with pre-school children are invited to Beth Israel's Shavuot Tot Dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday June 8. The traditional Shavuot dairy dinner will include cheese ravioli, blintzes, and cheesecake, followed by an adult learning session with Rabbi Dobrusin. During the learning session, the children will make a craft, hear stories, and sing songs with Jake Kander, Beth Israel's program director. This program is designed to allow parents to participate in the custom of learning Torah on the holiday of Shavuot, "The Time of the Giving of the Torah."

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Beth Israel will hose a variety of Tikkun Leil Shavuot study sessions on Sunday June 8, following the 9:30 p.m. Maariv Service. Study sessions last from 10 p.m. until midnight, and include: An introduction to "Mussar," a path of contemplative practices and exercises that have evolved over the past thousand years to help an individual soul pinpoint and then break through the barriers that surround and obstruct the flow of inner light in one's life; a session on Hescher Tzedek, a new way of certifying kosher products so that the working conditions in kosher slaughter houses are brought up to Jewish ethical standards; a session on Melodies and Prayer, introducing new tunes to enhance the regular services; and a session facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin examining various teshuvot (responsa) of the Rabbinical Assembly Law Committee. All these sessions are a foretaste of more in-depth study opportunities to be offered in the coming year. The study sessions end at midnight with dairy snacks.

The morning Shavuot Services will take place on Monday, June 9 and June 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be a Shavuot Mincha Service on both days at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Summer Tot events

Tot Shabbats will be held once a month during the summer at Beth Israel. Tot Shabbats are on the second Saturday of the month, June 14, July 12, and August 9. Led by Peretz Hirshbein and Jenn Levine, they include stories, songs, and prayers, and are an excellent introduction to Jewish life for two- through five-year-olds.

Friday night Shabbat events

On Friday, August 15, at 6 p.m., Beth Israel will hold their annual Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service, honoring the memory of Joey Newhouse, will take place in the Temple Beth Israel Sanctuary. This special service includes new and old melodies, and is led by Joey's mother Ruth, along with many of his friends. This event includes hors d'ouevres before the Kabbalat Shabbat Service and a dessert oneg following. This event is underwritten by the Joseph Newhouse Beth Israel Musical Enhancement Fund.

On Friday night, August 22, at 6 p.m., the annual Shabbat in the Park will take place at the County Farm Park, with a potluck dairy Shabbat dinner, preceded by an outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat service. Selected produce from the Beth Israel garden will be served as well.

Tisha B'av

Beth Israel services for the holiday on the 9th of Av, marking the destruction of the first and second temples and other Jewish tragedies, will take place on Saturday, August 9, at 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, August 10, at 8:30 a.m. Both services include the chanting of Megillat Eicha, the Book of Lamentations. A mincha service at 2:30 p.m. on August 10 includes the special Torah readings and Haftorah for the holiday.

Beth Israel flower & vegetable garden

This project by BIG (Beth Israel Gardeners) is in its second year at Project Grow's County Farm Park community garden (near Platt and Washtenaw in Ann Arbor). Young, old, and in-between can experience the joy of agriculture by working with a friendly group of people. The garden supplies flowers and vegetables for summer onegs, events at the synagogue, and local food banks. Volunteers typically work for a few hours on Sunday mornings, then break for lunch at the shelter, followed by an afternoon work session. Call or email Sam Zwetchkenbaum (szwetch@umich.edu or 717-6046) for more information.

High school dinner at Chia Chiang

Beth Israel high school students are invited to a free dinner at a Chia Chiang Chinese restaurant on Tuesday, August 26 at 6 p.m. to renew acquaintances and meet with Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Cindy Saper, and Jake Kander, and discuss the upcoming year of activities at Beth Israel.

Summer Services

Daily and Shabbat services continue all summer long at Beth Israel: Saturdays at 9:30 p.m., Sunday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m., and Friday evenings at 6. Childcare is offered on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat is the second Saturday of each month. On the morning of Saturday, June 28, Beth Israel's Ritual Assistant, Ron Sussman, will celebrate his anniversary bar mitzvah.

Beth Israel carnival

On Sunday, September 7 Beth Israel will offer a free carnival for adults and children, which includes hot dogs and carnival foods, entertainers, an inflatable bounce house, bingo, karaoke, and lots more—all on the grounds of Beth Israel.

Free High Holiday tickets to new residents and others, and membership incentives

Beth Israel will continue its policy of offering free High Holiday Tickets to individuals and families who have moved to Washtenaw County since last Yom Kippur. Graduate students and first- and second-year residents at local universities are also eligible for free tickets. People who are 35 and under may also become year-round members at a reduced rate of just $300 for their first year. Reciprocal High Holiday tickets are also provided to members of other Jewish congregations with proof of current membership. ■

All Beth Israel events are open to the public, and many are offered at no cost. Call 665-9897 for more information about the summer events. Additional summer events will be posted on Beth Israel's website: http://www.bethisrael-aa.org.

continued from previous page

single-sex group activities. It may be time, some adolescent experts suggest, to revisit the notion.

Moving Traditions, the non-profit that runs Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing, has launched "Where Have All The Young Men Gone," a three-year research and action campaign that is studying the groups that have been most successful at attracting and holding young men, from BBYO to Boy Scouts.

Many of those groups are for boys only, notes Deborah Meyer, the executive director of Moving Traditions, which is based in suburban Philadelphia.

"Seeing what Rosh Hodesh has done for girls, hearing the feedback from the girls and their parents and educators, why not do something like it for Jewish guys, who are dropping out from Jewish life more than girls, and are less satisfied with Jewish life than girls?" says Meyer.

Fishman's report notes that "a disproportionate number" of young Jewish men doing cutting-edge innovation in Jewish cultural and religious fields has come from Orthodox backgrounds. "This illustrates the power of these environments to prove intellectually and spiritually compelling to men, even when men reject their patriarchal premise," she notes.

The challenge to the liberal Jewish world, she says, is to provide the same compelling stimulus to its young men without sacrificing egalitarianism.

"Over the ages, men felt very involved in Judaism," she says. "It was their responsibility. This is gone today, except in the Orthodox world. We need to look at how we are raising our Jewish sons." ■

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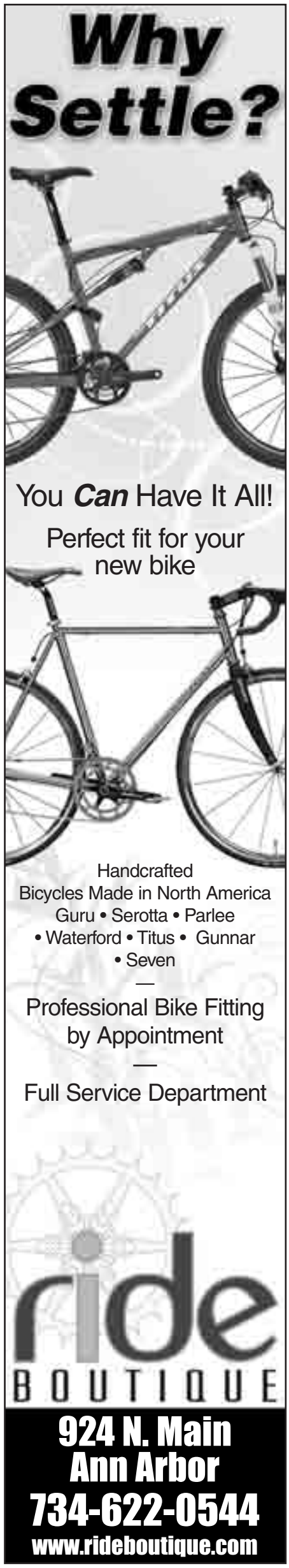


HDS honored at 2008 PEJE Assembly

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor (HDS) was one of 86 schools recognized for its marketing practices at a special awards ceremony during the 2008 Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) Assembly held in April. PEJE is a national organization of visionary Jewish philanthropists who seek to establish a vibrant and sustainable Jewish future by supporting Jewish day schools in North America. At the Boston conference PEJE granted its first-ever marketing awards to day schools for exceptional school marketing practices in five categories: community communications, fundraising, technology, special events, and student recruitment. HDS was one of nine schools that received three or more marketing awards. It was the smallest school to win in multiple categories. HDS received marketing awards in the categories of technology, student recruitment, and community communication. HDS's winning campaigns included the school's 30th anniversary promotional movie (technology), its newsletter distributed to the community (community communication), and its recent ad series (student recruitment) featuring alumnus Ben Freed, current student Seth Stancroff, and a future student Halle Rochman. The 30th anniversary movie was a collaborative effort between the Head of School and Amnon Steiner

"We are proud to be recognized by PEJE for our marketing efforts," said HDS vice president Pamela Ramseyer, who attended the conference and accepted the awards on behalf of the school. "This honor acknowledges our outstanding school staff and volunteers who work collaboratively to create and successfully communicate the uniqueness of our school. Our parent volunteers who worked with our head of school were Amnon Steiner, who produced the movie, Adam Eichner and Liora Rosen, who worked on the ad series, and Joan Hartman, who worked on the newsletter. They all deserve the national recognition."

During the awards dinner, a slide show featured many of the winning submissions. Honorees received framed commemorative certificates designed by Artists for Humanity. In a follow-up session examining the award-winning practices, Hebrew Day School's website was used to illustrate the use of websites to highlight a school's excellent staff. All of the award winners are posted online at http://www.peje.org.

2008 PEJE Assembly

The PEJE Assembly is the largest Jewish day school conference in North America – bringing together leaders from all denominations and giving attendees the opportunity to explore and promote collaboration and relationships that strengthen learning both at the school's core and periphery. The Assembly's 100 sessions cover five core areas—advocacy and recruitment, financial sustainability, leadership and governance, educational excellence, and collaboration—and were designed to prepare schools for growth and success.

"The PEJE Assembly has quickly grown into the flagship event for Jewish day school leaders across North America," said Rabbi Josh Elkin, Executive Director of PEJE. "In just three days, school teams integrate, link, learn, and take home practical knowledge and strategies that will make a positive impact on their schools."

Natan Sharansky, former Deputy Prime Minister of Israel was the PEJE Assembly keynote speaker.

Sharansky – a former Soviet dissident, human rights activist, Israeli politician, and noted author – shared his belief that individuals must first become grounded in their own identity before they can reach out to contribute confidently to the growth and betterment of society. The day school, with its potential to shape Jewish identity, connects students to their people, powerfully anchoring them.

At the conference, PEJE also shared the success of this year's MATCH program, which awarded grants to 146 schools in 27 states and two Canadian provinces. MATCH offers 50 cents on the dollar in matching funds to schools that have already secured a gift of at least $25,000. This year HDS was eligible to receive one PEJE matching grant because of a large philanthropic gift given to the school by Corliss Rosenberg. Two years ago, HDS was eligible to receive two matching grants because of large gifts from Prue and Ami Rosenthal, and Herb and Carol Amster. Thanks to the generosity of MATCH philanthropists and the Jewish day school donors who submitted applications for the program, the $5 million matching-grant pool is infusing the field with more than $15 million in new funding. MATCH has awarded more than $41 million in grants to Jewish day schools over the past two years. ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School or PEJE, call 971-4633, or email office@hdsaa.org.

Camp Raanana to hold open house at Independence Lake

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Camp Raanana, the JCC's outdoor day camp for children entering grades K–8, is gearing up for another exciting summer. Spots are filling up fast, so any families who have not yet registered should visit www.CampRaanana.com or contact the JCC at 971-0990 as soon as possible.

All families who are registered for Camp Raanana this summer are invited to the annual Camp Open House on Thursday, June 19, 6–8 p.m. The open house will take place at Camp Raanana's private beach-front site at Independence Lake Park (3200 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake). This will be an opportunity for families to tour the campsite, meet the counselors and staff, and enjoy a free kosher hot dog dinner with other camp families.

For more information, or to RSVP for this event, contact Camp Director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Kids Night Out welcomes entering kindergarteners

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Each month during the school year, the ewish Community Center of Washtenaw County holds a Saturday evening Kids' Night Out event featuring games, crafts, dinner, and a movie. The final Kids' Night Out of this year will be held on Saturday, June 7 from 6:30 to 10 p.m.. All participants will enjoy animal-inspired activities and a pizza dinner before watching the movie *Alvin and the Chipmunks.*

The Kids' Night Out program is open to JCC members and non-members in grades K through 5. Since this will be the final Kids' Night Out of the year, the JCC is also inviting students who will be entering kindergarten in the fall to attend this fun event. The cost is $20 for JCC members (additional siblings: $18) and $24 for non-members (additional siblings: $22).

Registration is requested by Thursday, June 5. Registration forms are available at http://www.jccannarbor.org and at the JCC. For additional information contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

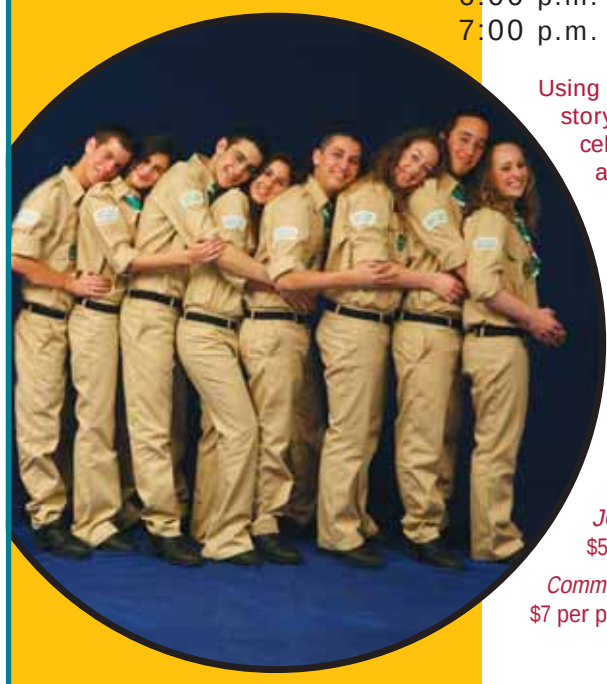
The Israeli Scouts

Performs at the Jewish Community Center

Friendship Caravan

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

6:00 p.m. - Pizza dinner
7:00 p.m. - Free Performance



Using song, dance, and storytelling, the Israeli Scouts celebrate our Jewish heritage and bring the sights and sounds of Israel to life.

The Friendship Caravan is part of a larger delegation of approximately 100 scouts who travel to North America each summer to represent the land of Israel.

Cost for Dinner:

JCC Members & Camp Families:
$5 per person ï $15 per family

Community Members:
$7 per person ï $21 per family

Reservations are required by Thursday, July 10. Registration forms are available at www.jccannarbor.org and at the JCC. Please call the JCC at 734-970-0990 for more information.

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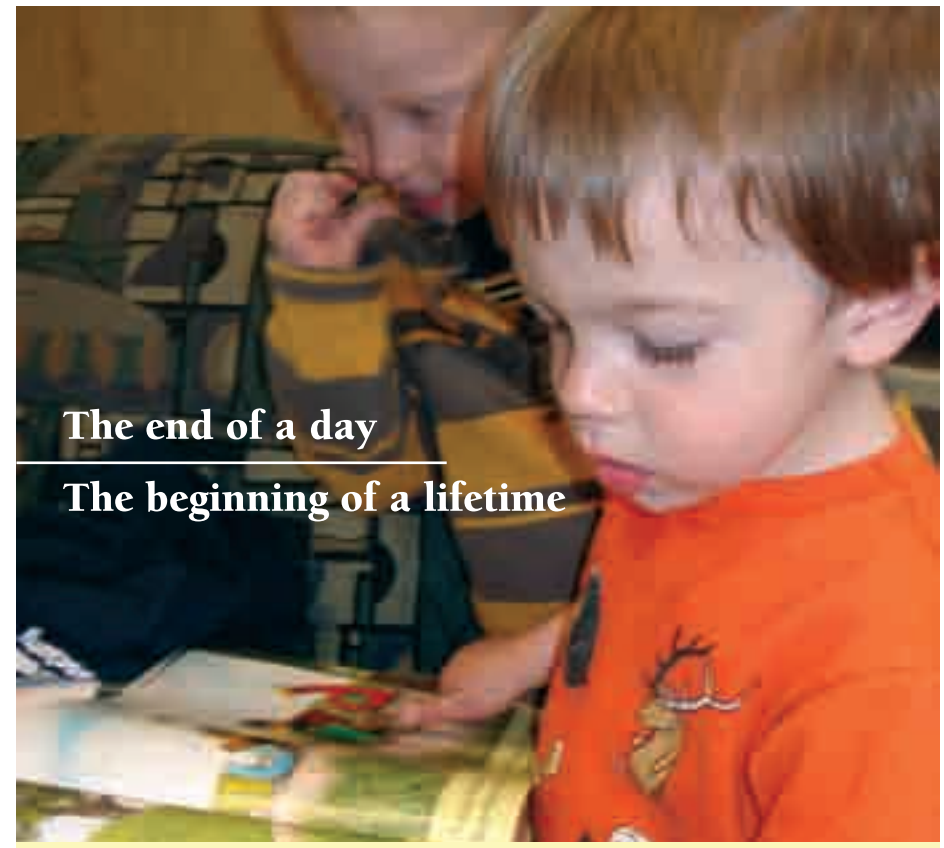

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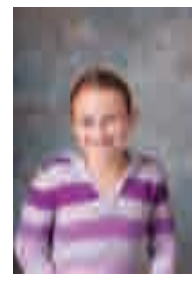
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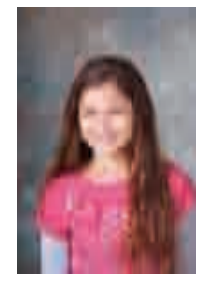
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Groups seek out Jewish students even before they land on campus

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—When Julie Lustbader was applying to colleges last fall, she wasn't thinking about Jewish life on campus.

Her parents were, though. They pored over a Web site set up by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, particularly its online guide to Jewish life on campus that provides Jewish data on more than 500 North American colleges and universities.

"They had a 10 percent rule—any school I applied to had to be at least 10 percent Jewish," says Lustbader, 18, who will graduate this month from Atholton High School in Columbia, Md. "And if it didn't have a Hillel, I couldn't even apply."

Lustbader decided on the University of Pennsylvania, and after visiting the Hillel there, she's glad to be attending a school with such an active Jewish student life.

"I heard the food is good, and they had a sign-up board for all these cool Jewish events—it looked really interesting," she says.

Lustbader regrets she wasn't involved in Jewish youth groups in high school.

"In college I want to get more involved," she says. "I identify Jewish, and it's nice to know I won't be the only one keeping kosher at Passover."

Lustbader is one of an estimated 75,000 Jewish graduating seniors who in recent weeks have made their final decisions about where to attend college. This fall, they will be part of the largest incoming freshman class in U.S. history.

Many of them may not be thinking much about their Jewish needs on campus until their first Jewish holiday rolls around, or a friend drags them to a Shabbat dinner at Chabad or a Purim party at Hillel.

That's too late, says Jeff Rubin, Hillel's associate vice president for communications.

"Jewish students often make decisions about what they'll be involved in during the first week or two on campus," he says.

Jewish student organizations have spent much time and money in the past decade beefing up their programs on campus, Rubin says. Now they're reaching out to make connections with incoming Jewish students even before they hit campus.

"By reaching out to them ahead of time, we increase the likelihood of their being involved," Rubin says.

Do high school students care? It depends, says Diane Bernbaum, the director of Midrasha, a Jewish community high school in Berkeley, California.

"The ones that have a good experience in high school want to re-create it," she says.

That was true for Ben Bovarnic, 17, a graduating Midrasha student who will be attending a small college in the Northeast. On his visit to the school, he told his mother it reminded him of Midrasha and he wanted to go there.

"I had a number of things I was looking for, a strong Jewish community and a strong Hillel," says Bovarnic, who asked that the school not be named for personal reasons. "I know I'm going to continue practicing Conservative Judaism, and I wanted a campus that would offer me that opportunity."

Not all Jewish high school students are as motivated to stay connected, educators say. And not all of them go to colleges that have a strong Jewish student life.

PHOTO CREDIT: MARIA RADACSI

Hillel sent these postcards to thousands of U.S. high school students and participants in the JCCA's Maccabiah Games as part of an outreach campaign.

"There are 12 to 15 universities where the most active Jewish students go, and after that it's hit or miss," says Richard Moline, the director of Koach, the Conservative movement's campus organization.

Two years ago, Hillel launched a major effort to bridge the gap between high school and college in partnership with the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, the Jewish Educational Service of North America, and the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jewish youth movements.

In 2006 Hillel began publishing an Internet e-zine called *Chai Wire* filled with information about Jewish life on campus that it sends quarterly to 50,000 high school juniors and seniors. Last year it held focus groups and sent out a survey to 20,000 *Chai Wire* readers to find out what those teens wanted.

Six hundred readers responded, Rubin says. Three-quarters said Jewish life on campus was an important factor in their college choice. Nearly 40 percent said they had consulted Hillel's online guide to Jewish student life during the application process.

Last summer, Hillel began to collect names of Jewish high school seniors and pass them to Hillel directors at the schools they would be attending, so those directors could communicate with them over the summer.

By the fall of 2007, Hillel had 5,000 names. This year it hopes to collect even more.

Rubin says the process is arduous. Some names are provided by high school youth groups or, less often, by synagogues. Some can be accessed through lists of incoming freshmen at private universities, although public universities don't collect such data.

Hillel also solicits names through *Chai Wire,* asking students to e-mail their contact information and where they are attending college.

Theoretically it's a streamlined process: Hillel provides the names to on-campus directors,

continues on page 34

Israel@ 60 Statistics

Provided by Jewish National Fund

As Israel celebrates its 60th anniversary, the country looks like this:

Population

- The population of Israel presently numbers 7,282,000. At the establishment of the State, the population of Israel was only 806,000.
- Approximately 5,499,000 residents are Jews, making up 75.5 percent of the entire population.
- The Arab population numbers approximately 1,461,000, and comprises 20.1 percent of the entire population of Israel.
- Other ethnic groups number 311,000, or 4.4 percent of the population.
- As of today, approximately 69 percent of the total Jewish population consists of native born "*sabras*" as opposed to only 35 percent in 1948.
- During the past year 156,400 babies were born, approximately 18,000 immigrants came to Israel, and Israel's population increased by approximately 130,000 residents, an increase of 1.8 percent. Most of the growth (88.8 percent) stemmed from natural population growth.
- As a result of population growth, the population density in the country has increased from 43 people per square kilometer in 1948 to 310 per square kilometer in 2006. The area with the greatest population density is the Tel Aviv region (with approximately 7,000 people per square kilometer) and the most sparsely populated area is the southern region (72 people per square kilometer).
- In 2006, Israel's population was more evenly distributed than in 1948. In 1948, the populations in the southern and northern regions were 19 percent of the total population, and until 2006 their portion increased to 31 percent of the total population. The portion of the population in the Tel Aviv region and the center decreased during that time from 71 percent to 53 percent.
- In 1948 there was only one city in Israel with more than 100,000 residents—Tel Aviv Yaffo (population 248,000)—while in 2006 there were 14 cities of that size.

Education Level

- The level of education of the Israeli population has risen continuously. The amount of adults who were totally uneducated has decreased from 16 percent in 1961 to 3 percent in 2007, and the amount of people who have completed 13 years of education or more increased from 9 percent to 42 percent.

* In 1948, 208 people received academic degrees at the Hebrew University and the Technion. In 2006 close to 53,000 people received academic degrees from 62 academic institutions.

The Economy

- During the years 1950-2007 the gross national product in Israel increased at a consistent average rate of 5 percent-6 percent per year. The product per capita increased by an average of 3 percent each year, and in 2007 the product per capita was six times that of 1950.

Foreign Trade

- Between the years 1950–2007 the portion of imported consumer goods decreased from 26 percent to 13 percent.
- During the 1970s export to Europe made up 70 percent of all Israeli exports due to the large portion of agricultural exports within the general exported products. In 2007, exports to Europe only made up 36 percent of total Israeli exports, while exports to America and Asia has increased continuously from 25 percent to 68 percentand from 1 percent to 18 percent, respectively.

Industry

* Many industries were established from 1948 until the mid 1960s. In 1950, there were 20,000 industries, out of which 14 percent were defined as large industries (with over 10 employees). In 1965, the number rose to 25,000, of which 15 percent were defined as large industries.
* During the years 1960-2007 industrial production increased by an annual average of 5.7 percent, while working hours for industrial labor increased by an annual average of 2 percent.
* In 1950, Israeli exports totaled $35 million, of which 49 percent was agricultural export, 25 percent diamonds, and approximately 26 percent industrial export including food products, textiles, and clothing. In 2007, exports totaled $46 billion, out of which 3 percent was agricultural produce, 47 percent was industrial export and 23 percent was polished and unpolished diamonds.

Agriculture

- From the beginning of the 1950s until the end of the 1980s, 60 percent of all agricultural areas were devoted to field crops. From 1990 this area decreased to 50 percent.
- The area of vegetable cultivation increased drastically during the first four years of the State from 70,000 to 300,000 dunam (1 dunam = 4 acres). Between 1954 and 1988 the area increased from 300,000 to 400,000 dunam. From 1989 to 2005 it increased by 60 percent and reached 650,000 dunam.
- In 2006, the amount of vegetables that were exported reached a peak of 260,000 tons. The export of flowers, which began on a small level in the 1950s, increased from the end of the 1980s and reached its peak of 224,000 tons in 1988.

Tourism

- Since the establishment of the State 57 million tourists have visited Israel. Tourism increased from an annual average of 47,000 in the 1950s to 2.7 million in 2000.
- Following the start of the second intifada in 2001, tourism declined to a low point of 900,000 in 2002. Since then there has been a rise in tourism and in 2007 the number of tourists reached 2.3 million.

The information above is published by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Israel getting charged up over future of electric cars

By Dina Kraft

TEL AVIV (JTA)—In a land of high gas prices and no oil resources, Israel is positioning itself to lead the world into the age of the electric car.

With $200 million in funding from private investors and enthusiastic support from the Israeli government, a young Israeli high-tech multimillionaire, Shai Agassi, is laying the groundwork for Israel to become the first test case for the gasoline-free electric car.

His company is planning to establish a network of battery-recharging areas across Israel by 2011. Renault-Nissan will begin introducing electric cars to the Israeli market as soon as next year.

"What we are doing is something that should have happened already," says Dafna Agassi, the marketing director of the Israel office of Shai Agassi's Project Better Place, which is based in California.

"The consumer pays for gas, and the prices are going up every day. The solution is here: It's the electric car."

Given Israel's small size, dearth of oil resources and location in an oil-rich yet hostile neighborhood, the Jewish state is an ideal testing ground for the electric auto.

Eager to reduce the country's dependence on gasoline and reduce car-generated pollution, the Israeli government already has pledged to offer significant tax incentives for buyers of electronic cars. If successful, the electric car venture could make Israel the world's leader in the industry.

That's precisely what Agassi and the Israeli government want.

"Think about what happened with Finland and Nokia—it sprung an entire industry," Dafna Agassi said of the mobile phone phenomenon. "We are starting the field here. Imagine bringing this to other countries and the potential impact is huge."

Given Israel's small size, dearth of oil resources and location in an oil-rich yet hostile neighborhood, the Jewish state is an ideal testing ground for the electric auto.

The cars will run on lithium-iron batteries, provided by Project Better Place, that should last for about 124 miles before needing to be recharged. This should suit the typical Israeli driver, who on average drives fewer than 45 miles per day. For longer trips, battery swap stations will serve as a safety net, the company said.

"Environmentally, I thought it's the best idea I've ever heard of, and secondly it made a lot of financial sense," said Idan Ofer, a leading Israeli businessman and the project's main investor.

Ofer spoke to JTA by phone from his SUV, which he says he plans to trade in for an electric car next year.

By "deploying faster than any other country on the planet," Israel will map out and discover the best ways to implement the electric-car system, he said. Project Better Place can then take that know-how to other countries and traffic-clogged cities.

Ofer says he plans to bring the idea to China, where he has shares in a local car company.

Renault-Nissan will be the first to bring its electric cars to Israel, but the market soon will open to other companies.

"Zero emission, zero noise," Renault-Nissan Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn said when he was in Jerusalem in January to inaugurate the project. "It will be the most environmentally friendly mass-produced car on the market."

Although electric cars are expected to reduce emissions and make Israeli cities quieter, they will still use fossil fuels. For the time being, the power stations that supply energy to the recharging points will run mostly on coal and oil.

"As I understand it, it has no relation to alternative energy," said Micha Asscher, a professor of physical chemistry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "It's a nice idea that our cars will gradually be driven by electric power—for the quiet and less pollution in the cities—but it is not alternative energy."

By contrast, in Denmark—which signed on to the project after Israel—power stations are fueled at least in part by wind power.

According to Ofer, whose family holdings include oil refineries, Israel is making a gradual transition to more environmentally friendly sources of energy for its power stations, including the country's most plentiful resource—solar power.

The major expense of an electric car is its battery. To tackle that challenge, Project Better Place is establishing a battery charging payment system similar to the way customers pay for the air time on their cellular phones.

Car owners will not own their batteries. Those who purchase cars will pay monthly fees based on their expected mileage. Cars will be recharged both via plug-in charge units at malls and parking garages, and some 100 battery replacement stations along highways, where batteries will be replaced for longer journeys.

Shai Agassi will be in Israel next week showing off the latest version of the electric car and offering test drives to members of the media. ■

Once a dream and an escape, Israel now second home for Russians

By Grant Slater

MOSCOW (JTA)—Nadezhda Gerzhoy splays her jacket and plops down in the middle of the verdant park, taking in the bright blues and whites of Israeli flags fluttering around her.

For 200 yards in every direction, nearly 7,000 Russian Jews mill about on a resplendent Sunday as the soft strains of "Hava Nagila" float over the largest gathering of the community in recent memory.

A 25 year-old interior designer, Gerzhoy was weaned on the first incarnation of Russian Hillel programs and first sampled Israel through a subsidized Birthright Israel trip earlier this year. On some Saturdays she prays at the Chabad-run Jewish community center, Moscow's largest.

Gerzhoy is among scores of young Russians who form the lively base of the Russian Jewish community. For them, Israel is no longer an aspiration or an escape but a second home with its own upsides and downsides when compared to an oil-rich and resurgent Russia.

"I don't know," Gerzhov says as she contemplates a move to Israel. "It would be nice maybe in one or two years, for one or two years. I've thought about it, but not hard."

Even as migration loses steam, Russian-speaking Jews living a dual life across both countries are anticipating the establishment of a visa-free exchange that could shift the way the two countries see each other.

From a folding chair in the corner of the VIP tent, Steven Schwager, the CEO of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, surveys the crowd, his finger darting from one young couple to the next.

"Ten years ago, you might have had all elderly people show up, but young Jews wouldn't show up," Schwager tells JTA.

The flow of aliyah from Russia has slowed to a trickle and even reversed course. The Israeli Embassy here says tens of thousands who immigrated to Israel are returning to myriad economic opportunities or out of a desire for cultural familiarity.

Schwager says this is good news for Israel that Moscow can now be counted on as another pillar of the world Diaspora.

Outside the tent on the grounds of a large park on Moscow's north side, young Russians draped in Israeli flags cheer a lineup of Israeli pop stars. This set came of age following the fall of the Soviet Union and the growing pains of a Jewish community working its way out from under often overt anti-Semitism.

Almost 7,000 Jews gathered last month in Moscow to celebrate Israel' 60th anniversary.

Organizers of last month's celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary, based on advanced ticket sales, expected a crowd of just above 1,000. They looked thrilled and surprised as the turnout ballooned to 4,000, 5,000 and finally 7,000.

Schwager says the event "symbolizes that the Moscow Jewish community has matured as a community that can stand on its own two feet, and that it can be part of the world Jewish community."

Though intracommunal politics still simmer and sometimes flare among Russian Jewish organizations, the park celebration represented a united effort featuring some of the biggest. The JDC-funded cultural center Nikitskaya and the World Congress of Russian Jewry were among the sponsors.

Russia's Jewish community today projects even more monolithic support for Israeli policies than the U.S. Jewish community, which has a spectrum of political views simmering, says Baruch Gorin, a spokesman for the Federation of Jewish Communities, Russia's largest umbrella organization and another event sponsor.

"They believe that they can help Israel as much as Israel can help them," Gorin says.

The celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary was much more subdued in Moscow, Gorin recalls, adding that anti-Semitism was so prevalent 10 years ago that a large gathering of Jews would have raised eyebrows with local officials.

Now, as the vise of Russia's power structure tightens on the rest of the country, the Jewish community is experiencing something of a renaissance, Gorin says.

This is the "first period in the history of Russia that freedoms are less than they should be and the Jewish community situation is the best," he says.

This sense of momentum and energy has shifted Russia's perception of Israel, which in the past provided a haven for millions of Jews to escape the rubble of the collapsed Soviet Union.

"Ten years ago, or 15 or 20, to support Israel openly was something very rare," Gorin says. "That's why only in their kitchens and in their flats, Jews here were all Zionists."

Ksenia Kuznetsova, 72, remembers the closet Zionism, but on Sunday she openly waves a balloon and Israeli flag from the comfort of a lawn chair as pop music flows from the main stage.

"Today, I am proud, very proud," she says. "I know that we have a strong people, but this is the first time I've seen it like this, out in the open and under the skies."

Like millions of Russian Jews, Kuznetsova has family in Israel—a daughter and two young grandchildren. She says her daughter is contemplating a move back to Moscow because the family misses Russian culture and they want their young children to grow up in that environment.

For a segment of the Russian-speaking community, the Israel-Russia decision is not so black-and-white, says Motya Chlenov, the head of the Moscow office of the World Congress of Russian Jewry.

"It's like New York and Florida," he tells JTA. "I think Israel now is thought of as a second home."

The free flow of people between Israel and Russia may become even more pronounced if, as expected, visas are no longer needed to travel back and forth. Chlenov says this could shift the perception of Israel even for non-Jewish Russians.

If a visa-free regime is established, he says, Israel would be the most prosperous country to which Russians could travel without a visa.

Israel's ambassador to Russia, Anna Azari, said last week that she hopes Israel's parliament could iron out the details of a new agreement on visas by the fall. It had been expected to happen as early as June.

"For the momentum of Russia-Israel relations," Chlenov says, "that would be as important as anything that has happened in the last 15 years." ■

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Ann Arbor community unites to celebrate Israel

Gilla Henya-Wiesel, special to the WJN

On Sunday, May 4, the Greater Ann Arbor Jewish community gathered for a grand celebration of Israel's 60th birthday. Close to 700 celebrants participated in the fourth annual Celebrate Israel Yom Ha'atzmaut festival held at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County.

The festival opening included a moving, Israeli-style torch lighting to commemorate Israel's founders, aliyah, peace, youth, culture and technological advancements. The afternoon ended with a closing ceremony featuring a community-wide children's choir singing Gil Ladin's arrangement of "Sim Shalom."

Under the leadership of Celebrate Israel chairs Leila Covrigaru, and Bunky and Neal Elyakin, more than 17 organizations cooperated in offering a wide range of programs, including "Walk the Land"—an interactive, simulated tour of Israel guided by Hebrew Day School fifth graders—a Mideastern lounge (*Pinat Zula*) with belly-dancing and drumming, Israeli wine tasting, pita making, and a variety of Israel-themed activities for children of all ages. The event received corporate support from Fifth Third Bank, Greg Fox Photography, and Plum Markets.

Yair Hammer and Dorit Mekler, two members of Moshav Nahalal, Ann Arbor's Partnership 2000 sister community, joined the celebration and created a special Nahalal exhibit with interactive children's activities and samples of olive oil, honey, and cosmetics produced by members of the Nahalal agricultural cooperative. A tractor, cow, and pioneer dress were available for photo opportunities. The theme of the exhibit was: Nahalal, Ann Arbor's Home in Israel, and numerous people planning a trip to Israel connected with Yair and Dorit to arrange a visit to Nahalal. Both of Nahalal's representatives were very impressed with Ann Arbor's celebration, saying it was "One-hundred percent."

Festival attendees enjoyed performances by Groove Spoon (the University of Michigan's premier Klezmer group), the Chaverim B'Shirim Choir singing songs of Naomi Shemer, and percussionist Aaron Kaufman performing a hip-hop tour of cities in Israel. Other local entertainment included singer Ricardo Seir and dancers Shira Elyakin and Kendall Gazaui. Israeli dancing led by Laura and Amnon Steiner and Marjorie Rhodes wrapped up the entertainment schedule.

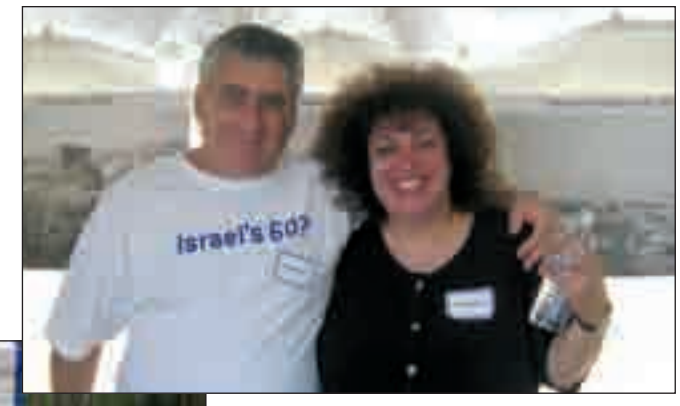
No festival is complete without food. Participants raved about the kosher Israeli fare offered by Chef Cari of Oak Park. Delicious burekas, melawach and fruit smoothies complemented equally satisfying falafel and shwarma.

Participants entering the JCC were impressed by the transformation of the hallways into a mid-eastern shuk (marketplace) with a range of Israeli and locally produced books, jewelry, and crafts.

As in previous years, Celebrate Israel attracted about 10 to 15 protesters decrying the "celebration of genocide." A combination of excellent security, well-placed murals and JCC vans, and the assistance of the Ann Arbor Police Department kept the demonstration from negatively affecting the enjoyment of those inside. Event co-chair, Neal Elyakin, stated that "the minor noises outside did nothing to dampen the music of celebration. Our focus was, and continues to be, on celebrating the wonders of the Israeli people, its culture, its entertainment, its love for life, its food, its beauty, its art. Our celebration this year did that all throughout the day, culminating in a moving performance by our children, singing songs of peace."

The celebration continued Monday night with an energetic performance by Sheketak at the Power Center. Over 400 audience members bounced in their seats to the rhythm of this unique dance and percussion troupe. "My daughter loved the show and wants them to come back," said Aaron Kaufman, Hebrew Day School teacher and local percussionist. ■

For more information about Ann Arbor's Celebrate Israel programming, visit www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael.



Yair Hammer & Dorit Mekler from Nahalal

Ariel Freed & Blue Box Bob

Eva Solomon, Cheryl Sugerman, Neal Elyakin with cow & tractor.

PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY FOX

Adam Eichner & Shirli Kopelman, MCs

PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY FOX

Zoe Palant & Liana Bernstein

PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY FOX

Eva Solomon & Esther Ullman enjoy YAD wine tasting

PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY FOX

Celeste Tannenbaum, Marissa Solomon, Michele Freed

PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY FOX

Chaverim B'Shirim performs

PHOTO CREDIT MIRIAM BRYSK

Ruth Pettit prepares the shuk

PHOTO CREDIT MIRIAM BRYSK

Yael & Clara Silver

Grandparent Shabbatat the JCC

Grandparents and friends of the JCC Early Childhood Center children were invited to celebrate Shabbat, on Friday May 23rd. Everyone enjoyed singing the children's favorite Shabbat songs, singing the blessings and eating a special lunch.

Nancy Margolis and grandaughter Hannah Ruth

Mike and Liz Fried with grandsons Eli and Ryder

JCC Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival

PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY FOX

Film Festival "Producers" (left to right) Michael Levine, Rita and Charles Gelman, and Patricia Levine

Film Festival co-chairs (left to right) Robert Tankanow, Elaine Margolis, Levana Aronson and Rachel Seel and JCC Executive Director Leslie Bash

PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY FOX

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Meeting unites far-flung communities seeking place in the Jewish world

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—Miguel Segura Aguilo's ancestors were executed as Jews five centuries ago in Spain, but he is not welcome in his local synagogue today.

Gershom Sizomu, was ordained last month in Los Angeles as a Conservative rabbi, dreams of setting up the first yeshiva for African Jews in his Abayudayan village in East Uganda.

Rabbi Capers Funnye, spiritual leader of a largely African-American congregation in Chicago, is off to Nigeria to make connections with the Ibo, a community that claims Jewish heritage.

These men, and dozens of other representatives of far-flung communities seeking recognition by the Jewish mainstream, gathered in May in San Francisco at a conference sponsored by *Be'chol Lashon* (In Every Tongue), a project of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research.

The Ibo, Lemba and Abayudaya of Africa, the anusim and xuetas of Spain and Latin America, Ethiopian Jews from Israel, Indian Jews from New York and Asian-American Jews-by-Choice spent three days networking and sharing information about their struggles to join the global Jewish family, a family that is not always eager to embrace them.

"The Jewish community keeps talking about the crisis of intermarriage and the crisis of declining numbers, but meanwhile you've got people with Jewish heritage, spiritual seekers, Jewish communities of historical significance, and the Jewish community is doing nothing to help them," says Gary Tobin, the institute's president and a longtime advocate of greater openness to those outside the Ashkenazi mainstream.

According to institute research, at least 20 percent of American Jews are racially and ethnically diverse. But old stereotypes about what "real Jews" look like persist, Tobin says.

"Instead of worrying about people being 'lost' to intermarriage," he wonders, "why aren't we extending out ideological borders to include all these people who are so interested in joining us?"

Some of these communities have gone through formal conversion, like the 800 Abayudaya of Uganda, who did so together in 2002. Others have not, including the Lemba of South Africa, who claim Jewish ancestry and point to the Jewish cultural practices they have maintained for centuries.

Still others languish in a gray zone, notably the anusim of Spain, Portugal and Latin America, known more popularly as the conversos—those whose ancestors were forcibly converted to Catholicism under the Inquisition, and who now wish to reclaim their Jewish identities. Estimates of their number range from tens of thousands to more than 1 million.

Aguilo was part of a group from Mallorca, Spain that met with Israel's Ashkenazi chief rabbi, Yonah Metzger, last year, to request a mechanism for their return to the Jewish fold.

"He told us, 'I need to find a legal tool to defend your position to the rabbinate,'" says Aguilo, a prominent journalist who writes and lectures widely about the xuetas, descendants of those conversos who recanted and reclaimed their Judaism before execution. Aguilo and his friends are still waiting for Metzger's reply. "Whatever happens, just don't put a cross on my grave," he says, only half-joking.

Some of the anusim claim special status as the descendants of Jews, insisting that they don't need formal conversion. A handful of sympathetic rabbis have held "ceremonies of return" for them, just as a growing number of Conservative rabbis describe the conversion of people with one Jewish parent as "affirmations" of a Jewish identity they were born with.

But thousands of others are willing to undergo conversion, says Cuban-born Rabbi Manny Vinas, who runs El Centro de Estudios Judios, a Spanish-language Torah center in New York that tries to guide anusim back to Judaism.

"These people want to return to Jerusalem with their heads held high," he says, arguing the need for a formal process to help them.

Those who wish their conversions to be recognized by Israel are thwarted, he asserts, by new conversion regulations worked out between Israel's rabbinate and the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America, whereby only conversions performed by 15 Orthodox rabbinical courts in North America will be accepted in Israel.

That means, he continues, that anyone from Central or South America who wants to convert must travel to North America, a practice that favors the rich.

"The only people able to convert are those with enough money to do it in the United States," he says.

Some of the communities in *Be'chol Lashon's* network are far removed from this political struggle over conversion. The Lemba of South Africa, who formed their own Lemba Cultural Association in 1948, are still at the stage of finding out who they are, and what Judaism is all about.

Be'chol Lashon is sponsoring a Lemba student in Botswana who is writing his doctoral dissertation on the history of the community. This is in line with the group's focus on empowering local leadership, says Be'chol Lashon director Diane Tobin.

She noted that *Be'chol Lashon* also funded Sizomu's five years at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, so he could return to Uganda this summer as Africa's first native-born black rabbi.

Sizomu wonders what effect his return will have on his people's worship style, as he has now become accustomed to western Conservative norms.

"The words we use are the same," he says, explaining that the Abayudaya use prayer books donated by Conservative rabbis who have visited this past decade, "but the melodies are African."

Tobin said she hopes to fund rabbinical studies for more African Jews.

"We will work with anyone who wants to move forward toward being part of the Jewish community," she says. ■

With rock music, Islamic teachings, ex-premier fights for moderate Islam

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—In its telling, the story of a notorious lynching of Jews is not unusual.

The storyteller, however, is: Abdurrahman Wahid, the former Indonesian president, and a leading Muslim scholar.

In an interview with JTA, Wahid, who traveled to the United States and then Israel in recent weeks to preach his message of Muslim tolerance, revealed the root of his understanding of the risks and perils of Jewish existence.

Wahid was a 29-year-old student at Baghdad University in 1966, earning his keep as a secretary at a textile importer, when he befriended the firm's elderly accountant, an Iraqi Jew he remembers only by his family name, Ramin.

"I learned from him about the Kabbalah, the Talmud, everything about Judaism," Wahid recalled of the four-year friendship that included long lunches, quiet walks and talks at the city's legendary Hanging Gardens.

Wahid has spoken about this friendship before—it is featured in his biography by Greg Barton, "Abdurrahman Wahid: Muslim Democrat, Indonesian President"—but on this recent tour Wahid added to the account his memories of Jan. 27, 1969.

In 1968, the Iraqi government effectively had come under the control of Saddam Hussein, whose title at that time was deputy to the president, Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr.

At Saddam's behest, Iraqi courts had convicted 14 Iraqis – nine of them Jews – on trumped-up charges of spying for Israel, and they were hanged that day in Baghdad's Tahrir Square, just steps away from where the textile firm had offices.

Ramin came to his friend Wahid and wept, wondering what would become of Iraq's ancient Jewish community.

"I said, 'This is not only your fate, it is my fate,' " said Wahid, now frail and in a wheelchair.

Wahid said he decided then that "the Islamic people should learn" about the Jews and their faith.

Ramin's worst fears were realized: The community that dated to the Babylonian exile heard Saddam's message loud and clear, and by the early 1970s it had dwindled to barely a hundred Jews. By 2007 there were less than 10, according to media accounts.

Wahid, however, made good on his pledge.

Best known as the president who shifted Indonesia to democracy from 1999 to 2001, Wahid then was forced out due to a combination of financial scandals and hard-liners who opposed his attempts to liberalize restrictions on political groups and the country's Chinese minority.

Wahid also has gained prominence for his insistence on introducing the world's most populous Muslim nations to certain truths about the Jews.

As an opposition leader, he broke new ground by visiting Israel in 1994. The apex of this effort, conducted jointly with the LibForAll Foundation www.libforall.org, a group that promotes moderate Islam, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center www.wiesenthal.com/site/pp.asp?c=fwLYKnN8LzH&b=242023, was the Holocaust conference last year in Bali, Indonesia.

At the conference, which was attended by survivors and Jewish and Muslim clergy, Wahid called Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad a "liar" for denying the Holocaust.

Wahid, 67, continues to promote his message with LibForAll, founded in 2003 by C. Holland Taylor, a scholar of Southeast Asia and a telecommunications magnate. Wahid, who says he plans to run for president again in 2009, brings to the venture his prestige as the scion of a family of Javanese Islamic scholars.

Earlier this month he attended a Wiesenthal Center tribute dinner in his honor and then traveled to Israel to participate in Israeli President Shimon Peres' conference celebrating Israel's 60th anniversary, "Facing Tomorrow."

This Jewish component is just part of Wahid's larger effort to promote an ideology of moderate Islam. He wants to demonstrate that the radical factions are not pre-eminent and to promote a faith that preaches equality for women and tolerance of non-believers.

Taylor says the strategy is to reach political, religious and cultural leaders—even pop stars—and through them to "trickle down" the message of Wahid's moderate Islam.

"We work with top leaders," Taylor said. "These individuals are able to drip their message down to a grass-roots levels."

LibForAll recruits respected, moderate Muslim leaders in Indonesia to endorse and write tracts repudiating the radical brand of Islam promoted by Saudi-funded advocates of Wahhabi Islam.

The organization also is disseminating a 30-lesson video curriculum called "What is Islam" that advances a pluralistic vision of the faith throughout thousands of Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia.

One of the project's highest-profile coups was getting rock star Ahmad Dani, whose group, Dewa, has been likened to U2, on board with the program. Dani has recorded a single taking on Laskar Jihad, Indonesia's radical Islamist terrorist group. The song is called Laskar Cinta <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5maM7yYlAE>—"Warriors for Love."

Taylor says plans are under way to translate the videos and tracts into Arabic and other languages.

"We feel that Indonesia has the cultural capital to be a leader in the struggle," he said.

This strategy might make headway in countries where moderate Islam has roots—Malaysia, Turkey and some East African nations—but Taylor does not have a clear plan of action for how this strategy is supposed to work in places such as Saudi Arabia, which has few Islamic moderates.

Wahid says moderate Islam stands a greater chance of triumphing over Islamic radicalism once Western leaders stop trying to accommodate Islamic extremists. Saudi Arabia, in particular, remains the primary funding source for the global spread of fundamentalist Islam.

"Don't give any kind of recognition to the fundamentalist view of Islam," Wahid said. "The Saudis have a double-pronged thing: the first is to give assistance to fundamentalists, on the other side to show the 'humanist' side of Islam. These things cannot be reconciled." ■

From Berlin to London to Paris, Europe-Israel ties warming

By Dinah Spritzer

PRAGUE (JTA)—When Israel asked for European troops, including Germans, to patrol the Israel-Lebanon border area following Israel's 2006 war with Hezbollah, it was a salient sign of how far European ties with Israel have come in recent years.

"Who would have ever thought that German soldiers would be charged—and trusted—to protect Israelis 65 years after the Holocaust?" observed Oded Eran, formerly Israel's ambassador to the European Union and now head of the World Jewish Congress office in Jerusalem.

The Germany-Israel bond was further underscored in March when German Chancellor Angela Merkel addressed the Israeli Knesset in German and held an unprecedented joint Cabinet meeting with the Israeli government.

Across Europe, similar signs show the warming relations with Israel, at least on the political and institutional levels.

Last month, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited Israel in what both sides deemed a turning point in bilateral relations since Poland became a democracy in 1990. Last October, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was received warmly in Britain when he visited 10 Downing St. And for the first time in 25 years, France has a president, Nicolas Sarkozy, keen on making the country's foreign policy friendlier toward Israel.

"I cannot recall a time when there has been such a positive flurry of diplomatic exchange between Israel and Europe," said Arye Mekel, a spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Many diplomats and analysts say Europe-Israeli relations are in a new era of growing cooperation and understanding following years of mistrust and recrimination.

"Relations have improved and matured substantially in recent years," said Ran Curiel, Israel's ambassador to the 27-country European Union in Brussels.

The improvement in ties is a consequence of quietly enhanced economic cooperation, the European Union's expansion to include unabashedly pro-Israel countries from the former Eastern bloc such as Poland and the Czech Republic, and the replacement of the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat with the more tractable Mahmoud Abbas as president of the Palestinian Authority.

Still, public opinion across Europe, according to polls and media reports, continues to cast Israel in an unfavorable light. This is evident in the negative media coverage of Israel during the Second Lebanon War in the summer of 2006, stepped-up criticism of Israel by European nongovernmental organizations and ongoing British trade union calls for boycotts of Israeli goods and academics.

"The media and church institutions since 2000 have tended to adopt a position which suggests people don't support Israel's right to defend itself, which means they don't support its right to exist," said Robin Shepherd, a senior fellow at Chatham House, a London think tank.

"What is still missing is to correct the [public's] image of Israel," said the secretary-general of the European Jewish Congress, Serge Cwajgenbaum. "The image is still unbalanced."

On the governmental level, however, ties between Europe and Israel appear to be at a high point.

Some examples: European governments across the continent are holding celebrations for Israel's 60th birthday. Israel trusts Europe to train P.A. security forces and oversee the international funding of the Palestinian Authority. Germany plays a key role lobbying for European support for Israel. And the British government has proven to be a staunch ally of Israel, domestic criticism of its policy notwithstanding.

In recent years, Israel has gained many trade and aid benefits associated with E.U. membership due to the adoption in 2005 of the union's European Neighborhood Policy. One-third of Israeli exports last year went to the European Union. Plans call for Israeli cooperation in the European space agency, and the sharing of intelligence is rising.

Such ties once were linked to Israeli progress in the peace process. That's no longer the case, Curiel says.

"You don't hear calls for sanctions against Israel anymore every time there is a disagreement about Israeli policy," he said.

This is a relatively new development. European politicians weaned on the milk of post-World War II rapprochement long have castigated Israeli military operations viewed by Israeli officials as vital to survival.

During the early years of the second intifada, which began in 2000, E.U. External Affairs Minister Chris Patten consistenly harangued Israeli leaders over the country's targeted assassinations of Palestinian terrorists, the West Bank security fence and Jewish settlement growth.

Europe wasn't always tilted against Israel. In the early years of the state, when Israel was seen as the underdog, it found friends and arms suppliers in Europe.

That changed following the 1967 Six-Day War.

"This is partly ideology, and partly oil, as Arabs were threatening to turn off the spigot," said Jonathan Rynhold, a professor of political science at Israel's Bar-Ilan University and a researcher at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

Israeli-European discord worsened when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982.

"Whatever is left of the image of plucky little democratic Israel, darling of the left, becomes to some the big bully Israel, the brutal occupying country," Rynhold said. "The first intifada, starting in 1987, just magnifies this negative picture."

Hope emerged during myriad episodes of negotiations, but the collapse of the Oslo peace process and the second intifada sent Israel-Europe ties to a new low.

In 2004, after the International Court of Justice at The Hague condemned the West Bank security fence, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told then-European Union Council Secretary-General Javier Solana that the court must think "Jewish blood is cheap."

Sharon also called the European Union, which had backed the court's conclusion, biased against Israel.

But the ensuing few years changed the tenor of the relationship significantly.

continues on page 34

With business booming in India, young Jews are staying put

By Ben Frank

MUMBAI, India (JTA)—About 500 well-wishers gathered recently around Isaac Divekar and Siyona Garsulkar at their outdoor catered wedding reception at the Elie Kadoorie School here.

Divekar, an accountant for a large investment firm, and Garsulkar, a human resources professional, had just married at one of this city's noted synagogues, Magen Hassidim, built in 1931.

Unlike many young Indian Jewish couples who, in previous years, often left the country in search of greater opportunity and Jewish life elsewhere, this young couple will be staying put in Mumbai.

"There are more job opportunities in India now," said Divekar, citing call centers and outsourcing from the United States. Young Jews "are staying in India and not emigrating."

Divekar and his wife epitomize the new India and its revived Jewish community of nearly 5,000, most of which lives in this metropolis of 19 million formerly known as Bombay.

Seeing a bright future in their native land, young Indian Jews increasingly are remaining in India, which has the world's fastest growing major economy after China. India's 9 percent growth rate in 2007 was four times that of the United States and nearly twice that of Israel.

Last year, only 49 Jews left the community for Israel, down from 291 in 2006 -- though the latter figure included the 229 Bnei Menashe from northeast India, according to Ze'ev Schwartzberg, head of the Ethiopia and India desk of the Jewish Agency for Israel's aliyah department.

Schwartzberg said 90 Indian Jews left for Israel in 2004 and 143 the previous year. India's booming economy and the Arab-Israeli conflict are keeping aliyah down, he said.

The Jewish population in India "has remained stable," said Elijah Jacob, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee country manager in India, citing a total of 4,480 Jews in India. Approximately 3,700 reside in Mumbai and nearby Thane. The balance live in the Konkan villages, Pune, Ahmedabad, Kochi (Cochin), Delhi and Calcutta.

Young Indian Jews like Divekar and Siyona have witnessed the economic boom overtaking the subcontinent.

"Never has there been a better time to have been born in India," seems to be the country's motto, uttered on Indian television almost every day.

With a population of about 1.15 billion, India, like China, has capitalized on its educated workforce to become a major exporter of high-tech, financial and other services.

Most young Jews are educated in Indian schools where English is the language of instruction and are highly proficient in English and technology. They see their country as a place of opportunity, especially in high-tech jobs and "call centers which pay extremely well," according to Antony Korenstein, country director of the JDC in India.

"Jews are sharing in and riding the economic wave," Korenstein said.

Many young Indian Jews work in high-tech industries and financial services, whereas their parents tended to work as family business owners, company directors, lawyers and bank clerks.

The parents "certainly are not poor, though very few are truly wealthy," Korenstein said.

Jews live in the cities where incomes are rising fast to catch up with international standards and reflect a higher standard of living.

With the call centers providing jobs for young adult Jews at night -- it's daytime in the United States -- synagogue leaders say it is difficult to attract them to activities. They sleep during the day and are working at night.

Divekar says that Jews are allowed time off from work for Jewish holidays and festivals.

Jews have been a part of the Indian mosaic for more than two millennia. This "land of the Ganges" was known to the Jews of antiquity as well as to those of the Middle Ages. The Talmud contains several references to India.

During the 12th century, a number of Jewish travelers, including Benjamin of Tudela, wrote about Jewish life here.

In 1948, some 30,000 to 40,000 Jews resided in India, but most left for the new State of Israel in the following few years. Still, India boasts the largest number of indigenous Jews of any country east of Iran.

Not only are young Jews staying in India, a few Jewish families have returned from Israel.

Israeli-born Anil Abraham, 31, is now a tour operator in Kochi, where he has relatives. Although he hasn't made up his mind to stay, Abraham says that "life is different here compared to Israel," citing the "pressures of security and job there."

"I love this place," he added.

The Mumbai Jewish community appears to be active, with nine functioning Sephardic Orthodox synagogues, but only two rabbis.

A Reform congregation, JRU, meets at the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center. The JCC, which receives JDC assistance, houses a meeting room for young people, a popular computer facility and a library that hosts a religious school program for children.

JDC provides seniors and needy Indian Jews with monthly cash assistance, medical programs and medications. It also sends young Indian Jews for leadership training courses abroad and sponsors two Jewish Service Corps volunteers, Reuben Posner of Baltimore and his wife, Leila Bilick, originally from Teaneck, N.J. They teach in the religious school that meets weekly in Mumbai and biweekly in Thane, and also have started adult-education classes.

Natasha Joseph, 20, an editor at the new magazine Kol India, is active in the Jewish community. She cites the myriad Jewish activities in Mumbai: the Khai Fest, a Chanukah festival sponsored by The Jewish Youth Pioneers; communal Passover seders in the city and elsewhere; children's day camps; and youth leadership programs.

The community held a large Israel Independence Day celebration in the Magen Hassidim pavilion and a Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration at the JCC. ■

Foundation pledges $3 million to let Jewish innovators do their thing

By Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA)—The philanthropic trend toward investing in people rather than projects is getting a boost from one of America's largest Jewish foundations.

The Avi Chai Foundation, which has nearly $700 million in assets, according to its last available tax filing, awarded $1.15 million last month to six Jewish social entrepreneurs whom the foundation sees as emerging Jewish leaders.

Foundations typically fund specific programs and tend to keep a fairly close eye on how their money is used. But Avi Chai gave four individuals and one team of two $75,000 per year over the next three years simply to create.

Though each recipient proposed a project to pursue, the foundation's leaders say Avi Chai will have very little oversight as to how each spends the money.

With these grants, the foundation is picking up on a giving model that seems to be taking root in the Jewish world. Other major foundations also have begun funding individuals in an effort to nurture creativity and sustain up-and-coming community leaders.

"We were looking for people who would be entrepreneurial or impactful in their ideas, who would think out of the box, or within the box in new ways," the executive director of the foundation, Yossi Prager, told JTA.

"All of these people have a project they are working on, but the investment was not because of their current project. We were really trying to invest in these people and get them started in their current dream to help them succeed now, so they can dream larger in the future."

The recipients are:

- **Ariel Beery and Aharon Horwitz**, of New York and Jerusalem, who will split one grant to develop their PresenTense Institute of Creative Zionism, which seeks to foster Jewish creativity by developing sites in major Jewish cities around the world where Jews can come, stay, work and collaborate.
- **Betsy Dolgin Katz,** of Chicago, the North American director of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, to write a guide to adult Jewish education.
- **Rabbi Elie Kaunfer** of New York, the co-founder and executive director of Mechon Hadar, a network of grass-roots egalitarian and traditional minyanim, to further develop the group's full-time yeshiva for adults.
- **Rabbi Dov Linzer**, the dean of the progressive Orthodox seminary Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in New York, to create a rabbinical school curriculum for rabbis who will become educators rather than pulpit rabbis.
- **Rabbi Menachem Schmidt,** the head of the Chabad house at the University of Pennsylvania, to develop Shabbat programming at a downtown art gallery in Philadelphia.

Avi Chai, whose mission is to create Jewish literacy and peoplehood, traditionally funds Jewish day schools, summer camps, educational curricula and other supporting programs.

But the foundation is taking a new approach through these grants. It calls them Avi Chai Fellowships to emphasize that they are not creating institutions, but a legacy of Jewish leaders, the foundation's chairman Arthur Fried, said last week at the Avi Chai offices in a mansion on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

The foundation plans to spend all of its assets by 2020. Fried says it is taking a chance on a new strategy.

"We want to set a tone for other foundations and other philanthropists," he said.

But some Jewish foundations already have caught on.

Among others, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation recently awarded a $200,000 incubator grant to Kaunfer's partner at Hadar, Rabbi Ethan Tucker, to help him grow projects to engage Jews from various streams of Judaism. That money was given directly to Tucker to spend however he pleased.

The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Family Philanthropies and Brandeis University recently awarded a two-year visiting professorship at the Massachusetts school, replete with a book deal and a six-figure salary, to Yehuda Kurtzer to help him write a Jewish book that Brandeis and Bronfman hope will transform the way Jews think about themselves.

Such grants tend to give innovators more room to create by giving them more financial leeway—a boon especially for those who run fledgling organizations, according to Joanna Ballantine, the executive director of the Grinspoon Foundation.

"The advantage of our fellowship is that now Ethan is able to devote himself to his thinking and writing and teaching. It liberates him from holding a 9-to-5 job," she said. "He shouldn't have to fund-raise and seek speaking engagements to pay his rent."

Though they may not be the first to use the model, Avi Chai's grants are the most extensive to date. The foundation says it will award at least two more rounds of grants, giving away more than $3 million in total. Fried also indicated the grants would continue until the foundation closes down in 2020.

Prager says the foundation doesn't expect all the money to pay dividends; officials assume many will not. But he says they are a necessary investment.

"There are people here who recognized that many people sitting around decision-making tables are of an older generation that already has decades of experience in Jewish communal life, but our future depends on enabling younger people who share the same values to experiment," Prager said. "Sometimes they will fail and sometimes they will thrive.

"But we are interested in enabling them. We are looking at them as partners and ultimately successors." ■

Raid on kosher slaughterhouse spurs fear of shortages, threat of boycotts

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—As federal hearings were beginning last month involving hundreds of employees netted in a government raid on the nation's largest kosher slaughterhouse, some rabbis and consumers adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude before making any judgments—about the company's practices or the impact of the arrests on the kosher market.

But for those already concerned about earlier allegations of animal cruelty and worker mistreatment at the Agriprocessors plant in Postville, Iowa, the latest legal turmoil is providing fresh ammunition for tough action against the company, including a potential boycott.

On a practical level, some kosher butchers worry that production slowdowns at the plant, which saw about one-third of its workforce arrested on charges related to misuse of social security numbers and faking their identities in employment documents, will lead to a shortage of kosher meat and poultry—and a resultant price increase.

Agriprocessors, which markets its products as Aaron's Best and Rubashkin's, provides an estimated 60 percent of the nation's kosher meat and 40 percent of its kosher poultry.

Albert Zadeh, the owner of Pico Glatt in Los Angeles, says he is already feeling the effects of the work slowdown.

"If you order five cases of meat, you might get two cases," he said.

Yuval Atias, the owner of Oakland Kosher in that California city, said he expected to be "short on chickens this week." He hoped to compensate by ordering more from Empire Kosher, the nation's second-largest producer of kosher poultry.

Murry Weltz, the co-owner of Park East Kosher in New York City, insisted it's "too early to tell" whether the plant's troubles will hurt the nation's kosher meat supply.

"They have a week to two-week supply," he said. "People won't start feeling it for a couple of weeks, and anyone who tells you otherwise is full of it."

Kosher industry promoter Menachem Lubinsky, the organizer of the annual KosherFest trade show in New York City, predicted that any shortfall will be short-lived. Even if Agriprocessors shut down tomorrow, he said, other kosher entrepreneurs would be ready to step in.

Lubinsky, who does consulting work for Agriprocessors, said that most of what the company has on the market isn't coming from Postville but from some of its smaller North American plants or South American operation.

"This is a company that has many resources," he said. "I don't see a crisis."

There may, however, be a crisis of a different kind looming.

The Conservative movement, which condemned Agriprocessors last week as bringing "shame upon the entire Jewish community," may call for some kind of limited boycott later this week.

There is "talk of it," said Rabbi Joel Meyers, the head of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Association, adding that it is a "divisive issue."

In December the Conservative movement announced the creation of a hechsher tzedek, or certification of social justice, in response to problems its own investigative commission found during visits to the plant.

But some Conservative rabbis are wary of calling for an all-out boycott that might discourage Jews from keeping kosher, Meyers said. In some communities, the only available kosher meat comes from Agriprocessors.

Some Conservative rabbis say that's no excuse.

Arthur Levinsky of Beth El Congregation in Phoenix urged congregants in his sermon last Saturday to find alternatives to Agriprocessors.

"This scandal, on top of the earlier ones, may be the catalyst needed to get the Jewish community to find sources of kosher meat that are not tainted by cruelty to animals or human beings," he said. "If ever I've considered vegetarianism, it's now."

Despite the company's dominance of the market, some kosher consumers are actively seeking alternatives.

Sandy Gruenberg, the Judaic studies coordinator at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Westchester in White Plains, N.Y., has been "very concerned" about the allegations against Agriprocessors since first hearing about them last year.

"Buying kosher is something I've done my whole life, but the animals have to be treated properly," she said. One of her friends, who also keeps kosher, has become a vegetarian because of the case.

"The people who run Agriprocessors are supposed to be the most observant, and the fact that this does not figure into their consideration is very bothersome to me," Gruenberg said, adding that she would be willing to pay more for kosher meat produced under ethical conditions.

The reaction in the Orthodox world is much more muted.

Rabbi Menachem Genack, the CEO of the Orthodox Union's kosher division—the main kosher certifier of the Chasidic-owned Agriprocessors—refers reporters to the O.U. policy of leaving work conditions, environmentalism and animal welfare in the hands of the appropriate state and federal agencies.

The O.U.'s mandate is to ensure that the meat is kosher according to Jewish law, he said.

Genack said, however, that if a company were convicted of a felony, the O.U. would withdraw its kosher certification. Agriprocessors and its officials have not been charged with any crime, and say they are cooperating with the government's investigation.

Agriprocessors' dominance of the market is not incidental, Genack said. Most of the small and medium-sized kosher slaughterhouses in the United States have closed since the 1970s and '80s. The O.U. is talking to Empire about increasing its poultry output for the near future, but there is no real substitute when it comes to meat.

"Agriprocessors is an important source of meat for the kosher world," he said. "Finding other sources is not trivial."

Rabbi Edward Davis of the Young Israel of Hollywood-Fort Lauderdale, in southern Florida, said that virtually all the kosher meat and poultry in his area comes from Agriprocessors. Some local butchers tried to break the company's monopoly but failed.

While Davis is concerned about the federal allegations, and said the company "will have to take its lumps," he's taking his cue from New York.

"We'll wait for the big boys to make the decision," he said.

Referring to the family that owns the Iowa-based business, he added, "There was a world before Rubashkin, and there will be a world after Rubashkin." ■

(Amy Klein of the L.A. Jewish Journal *contributed to this report.)*

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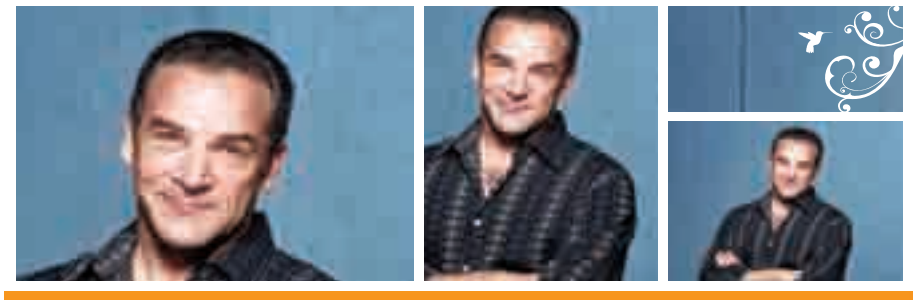

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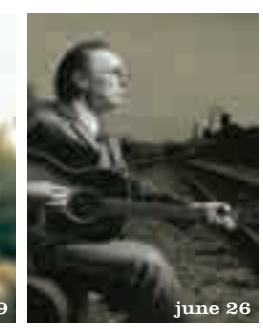

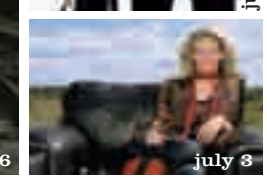

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Sweeney Todd

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

Last December, when the Tim Burton film of Stephen Sondheim's musical, *Sweeney Todd* was released, I asked my wife if she wanted to go see it.

"Yeah!" said she, immediately and very enthusiastically. "Johnny Depp sings!"

"Sure," said I. "You want to hear Johnny Depp."

In the end, we never did get around to seeing the movie while it was in the theaters. (Though not, I hasten to say, because I felt threatened by Johnny Depp's looks, or jealous of his singing. Not entirely, anyway.)

But, as we all know, these days if you miss a first run movie, you soon get another shot at it. (As Sweeny Todd says in the movie, "All good things can come to those who can wait.") When the DVD became available in April, I rented it and watched it on my laptop in a hotel room in Wisconsin where I was working. Truth is, neither my wife nor I are horror flick fans and even Johnny Depp's singing, was not enough to entice her to watch the movie.

Yes, there is gore aplenty in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. It is R rated, PG 17, "For Graphic Bloody Violence." If you're too squeamish to watch a number of throats slashed,

you'll want to skip this. But, there is also Stephen Sondheim's music, and Helena Bonham Carter, (my incentive) Sacha Baron Cohen (this time not Borat, but barber, and not in modern Kazakhstan, but in 19th century London) and yes, Johnny Depp, who does sing very, very well, it turns out, as does the rest of the cast.

One of the special features on the DVD is a lengthy discussion with director Tim Burton, Johnny Depp, and others involved in the creation of the movie. It is well worth watching, and offers many fascinating details about the production.

Sondheim's music, always sophisticated, frequently complex, often gorgeous—I'll bet you'll be humming "Johanna" for days after you hear it again—was quite a challenge for the cast. The score is filled with difficult-to-sing chromatic passages and shifting time signatures. Depp, who doesn't read music, (though he was a guitar player in rock bands, and originally came to LA to try to make it as a musician, not as an actor), said about his role in Sweeney Todd, "The singing was a real opportunity… to fall on your face. Still is." All the actors had extensive vocal training to prepare for their roles, and their previous lack of experience may have been an advantage. Tim Burton said, "None of the actors are singers, so they bring a sort of a modern quality to it." (And not only modern. Sacha Baron Cohen, true to his comic bent, auditioned for his role in *Sweeney Todd* by singing a medley of *Fiddler on the Roof* songs.)

Watching the movie I found myself having what may be an unusual set of reflections. Early on in the film I began to notice what I thought were echoes of the Holocaust. (I freely acknowledge that this may be my own unique filter, my tendency to be acutely sensitive to anything that might be related to the Holocaust, because of my parents' history. Both of them were concentration camp survivors.) Though the film is in color, most of it looks more like a black and white movie. *Schindler's List* came to mind frequently, with ominous grays and blues being the dominant colors in *Sweeney Todd*.

Then there is the character of Sweeney Todd, surely a twisted, mad, Hitlerian figure. Todd's rival barber, despite supposedly being Italian, is named Adolfo. And there is Sweeney Todd and Mrs. Lovett's meat pie oven, and finally the chilling line, "the stink from your chimney." They all sparked Holocaust connections for me.

The movie won two Golden Globe Awards, for best picture and for best actor (Johnny Depp). Sondheim's original musical won a Tony Award when it first appeared in 1979. Of course, not everyone likes Sondheim. (His neighbor, Katharine Hepburn, once famously complained about the noise coming from his house.) But few can argue with his genius or his half-century track record in Broadway musicals. While many think of Sondheim foremost as a musician, he's also an exceptional lyricist. (One of his earliest successes on Broadway was writing the lyrics for the Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* compositions.)

Diane Sawyer, interviewing Sondheim on *Sixty Minutes*, once asked him how he came up with all those remarkable rhymes. She was astonished—and clearly disappointed—to learn that Sondheim used a rhyming dictionary. Sondheim was equally incredulous at her naiveté. Of course, as a professional, he would use every tool available to him in order to produce the finest work he could.

Sondheim has said that no movie versions of any of his musicals has satisfied him. We don't learn if he's happy with this movie, though he was intimately involved in its production. But like his musical, the movie continues to embellish and extend the fame of Sweeney Todd, a man and a story that has fascinated people for more than 150 years. ■

Try dairy treats this Shavuot

Judy Cohen, food editor

Although less well known than Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah or Passover, Shavuot is important in it's own right. This year, the holiday begins the evening of Sivan 5 (Sunday, June 8) and ends on Sivan 7 (Tuesday, June 10).

Shav'ot is actually a continuation of Passover. After leaving Egypt and wandering in the desert for seven weeks, the former slaves reached Mt. Sinai. At that place, they received the Torah and the Ten Commandments. The word Shavuot means "weeks". The period of 49 days—or seven weeks—between the second day of Passover and the day before Shav'ot is known as the Counting of the Omer, and connects the two holidays. Some say that Passover emphasizes the freedom from physical bondage and Shavu'ot emphasizes freedom from the spiritual bondage of immorality and idol worship.

In later years, Shavuot became associated with the harvesting of the first fruits and grains of spring, especially seven species: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. It became a pilgrimage holiday. Baskets of the first fruits were taken to the temple and presented to the high priests (Kohanim). Still later, after the destruction of the temple, it became primarily a holiday celebrated by eating dairy foods and sweets and staying up the entire night to study the Torah. In addition to eating dairy, it is customary to decorate the home and synagogue with greenery.

There are several dairy foods in particular that are customary to this holiday, such as cheesecake, blintzes or blintz soufflé, and kugel.

Cheesecake

True cheesecake lovers tend demand an infinite variety of crusts, fillings and toppings from which to choose. The Joy of Cheesecake by Dana Bovbjerg and Jeremy Iggers is an excellent cheesecake resource

A general note: Cheesecakes are done when a small knife inserted into the center comes out clean. It will look firm (not "jiggly") and should be lightly golden brown on the top.

Crust

There are many possibilities for crusts. Low-fat vanilla wafers, nuts, chocolate cookie or graham cracker crumbs, whole wheat crumbs, and even matzo meal are viable options. The possibilities are endless. Jeremy Iggers' nut crust is provided below. Pre-bake most crusts in a 350° oven for 6 to 10 minutes then allow it to cool. Crusts can be briefly placed in the freezer to speed cooling. In general, cheesecake can be made ahead and frozen.

You will need:

- 9-inch springform pan
- 1 ½ cups finely chopped nuts (walnuts are good)
- 2 Tablespoons softened butter
- 2 Tablespoons granulated sugar

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Place all ingredients in mixing bowl and blend thoroughly. Press mixture into bottom and partly up sides of a greased 9-inch baking pan or springform pan.
3. Bake about 6 minutes or until crust is light golden brown. Cool before filling.

Milk Chocolate Cheesecake Filling

Iggers says, "This cake is a good as the chocolate bar you select, so be choosy".

- 1 five-ounce milk chocolate bar
- 1 ½ pounds cream cheese
- 2/3 cup confectioner's sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1/3 cup chocolate mint liqueur (Brandy or other flavors of work. Sabra, the Israeli liqueur, is especially good.)
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 cup sour cream

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Melt chocolate using a double boiler. Meanwhile, beat together the cream cheese and sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat in the eggs one at a time, mixing thoroughly after each. Stir in melted chocolate. Add the liqueur, butter and sour cream. Blend well.
3. Pour the mixture into the prepared crust and bake for 45 minutes. Turn off the heat and prop the oven door open. Let the cake cool to room temperature then chill.
4. This can be topped with fresh raspberries or any number of other toppings.

Blintz Soufflé #3 *from www.cyber-kitchen.com*

This one is super easy because it starts with store bought frozen blintzes.

- 3 boxes blintzes (1 cheese and two fruit filled)
- ¼ lb (1 stick) butter or margarine
- 7 eggs
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoons salt
- ¼ cup orange juice

1. Melt butter or margarine in a 13"-by-9" baking dish. Arrange blintzes in dish. Beat remaining ingredients together and pour over blintzes. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
2. Bake at 350° uncovered for 1 hour.
3. Serve with sour cream.

June 2008

Sunday 1

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Cedar Point Trip: EMU Hillel: Road trip by bus to Cedar Point with Hillel of Metro Detroit. Depart from Oak Park JCC, 15110 West 10 Mile Road. RSVP to Karen at 313-577-3459 or hilleled@wayne.edu.

"The Copper Scroll and Hyrcania's Mysterious Tunnels:" BIC. Featuring Israeli Archaeologist Oren Gutfeld, PhD as part of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's Celebrate Israel @ 60 programming. Could the tunnel steps at the foot of Mount Hyrcania be the steps referred to in the Copper Scroll discovered in the Qumram caves that led to the incredible temple treaures? Special Israeli snacks will be featured as part of the refreshments. 7:45 p.m.

Monday 2

Tuesday 3

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Scriptural Reasoning: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. How does our faith teach that we should treat "the other, the neighbor, the stranger?" Scriptural Reasoning is an emerging practice among and between Christians, Jews, and Muslims, of reading their sacred scriptures together, and reasoning together on particular contemporary issues. Light potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by speakers presenting texts and brief interpretations at 7 p.m. Speakers followed by small group discussions. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard Street. For information, call 663-1870 or email grace@icpj.net.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 4

Music Appreciation and Exploration: JCC Seniors. New Washtenaw Community College class at the JCC. With Ken Kozora. 10 a.m.–noon.

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Rabbi Dobrusin presents "My Travels On and Off the Pulpit." Bring a dairy lunch. Drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 5

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Birthdays and the Making of *An American Opera:* JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with June birthdays. Bring families and friends for cake and ice cream. 12:30 p.m. Tom McPhee will discuss and show clips from his recent award-winning documentary *An American Opera.* Filmed during his 18-month stay in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina, this documentary follows the story of the tens of thousands of house pets who were left to perish across the gulf when their owners were forced to evacuate without them. 1 p.m.

Newman Gala: JCC. To honor Sharon and Chuck Newman, the JCC is hosting a Gala to launch a JCC Endowment Fund for the Future. The monies raised from the gala dinner, a tribute journal and gifts pledged to the Fund for the Future will form an endowment to ensure that the JCC and all of its programs will be there for generations to come. $150/person. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Program and dinner at 6:30 p.m. For information and to register, call 971-0990.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 6

Festival of the Arts: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit: To volunteer with Hillel members at this Detroit festival, contact Karen at 313-577-3459 or email hilleled@wayne.edu.

Annual Picnic: JFS. Jewish Family Services will provide the main course and picnickers will share their culinary delights with a dish to share. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at Gallup Park. For more information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 7

"Ages and Stages of Adoption:" JFS. Adoptive and prospective adoptive families will hear Dr. Jerri Jenista share her professional expertise about the ages and stages of adoption. Ask questions of Dr. Jenista, meet with other adoptive parents and pick up adoption related materials. Childcare provided on site. 1–3 p.m. at the JCC. RSVP to Lisa Keefauver at 769-0209 or email lisa@jfsannarbor.org.

Kids' Night Out: Alvin and the Chipmunks: JCC-Youth. Final KNO of the season to which preschoolers who will be entering kindergarten in the fall are invited to attend along with children in grades K-5. Fun-filled evening of animal inspired games, crafts, and dinner before watching the movie *Alvin and the Chipmunks.* $20/members; $18 additional siblings; $24/non-members; $22/additional siblings. 6:30–10 p.m. For information, contact deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 8

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tot Shavuot Dinner: BIC. For families with preschool aged children. Traditional Shavuot dairy dinner will include cheese ravioli, blintzes and cheesecake, followed by an adult learning session led by Rabbi Dobrusin. During the learning session, children will make a craft, hear stories, and sing songs with Jake Kander, Beth Israel's program director. 5:30 p.m.

Shavuos Services: Chabad. Evening services at 9 p.m. followed by festive meal and all night learning.

Shavuot Services: AAOM. 9:30 p.m. at UM Hillel.

Ma'ariv Service: BIC. Preceding Tikkun Leil Shavuot. 9:30 p.m.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Adult Study: TBE. "Wars of Self Defense: S'derot and Missiles from Gaza" with Rabbi Levy. Discussion with cheesecake. 9 p.m.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study Sessions: BIC. A variety of study sessions to include "An Introduction to Mussar," a path of contemplative practices and exercises that have evolved over the past thousand years; a session on Hekscher Tzedek, a new way of certifying kosher products; a session on melodies and prayer, introducing new tunes to enhance regular services; and a session facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin examining various *teschuvot* (responsa) to the Rabbinical Assembly Law Committee. The sessions end at midnight with dairy snacks. 10 p.m.–midnight.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot: AAOM. Midnight. Call 994-9258 for location.

Monday 9

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday*.

Shavuos Morning Service: Chabad. 9:45 a.m. Children are invited to hear the Ten Commandments and enjoy an ice cream party followed by annual festive dairy meal for everyone.

Shavuot Service: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. at UM Hillel.

Shavuot Service: BIC. 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Shavuot Service: Temple Beth Emeth. Service with Yiskor and lunch. 11 a.m. Reservations at 665-4744.

Shavuot Mincha Service: BIC. Mincha Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Shavuos Afternoon and Evening Service: Chabad. 8:45 p.m.

Tuesday 10

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Shavuot Service: BIC. Service at 9:30 a.m. inn the Sanctuary. Yizkor starts approximately between 10:30 and 11 a.m.

Shavuot Service: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. at UM Hillel.

Shavuos Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Yizkor Memorial Services at 11 a.m. Afternoon and Evening Services at 9 p.m.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Shavuot Mincha Service: BIC. Mincha Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Wednesday 11

Music Appreciation and Exploration: JCC Seniors. New Washtenaw Community College class at the JCC. With Ken Kozora. 10 a.m.–noon.

Mini Golf: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit: Show off your mini golf skills and chow down on some pizza at the Royal Oak Golf Center, 3500 Edgar Avenue in Royal Oak. $5/person. 6–8 p.m. RSVP by June 5 to Karen at 313-577-3459 or email hilleled@wayne.edu.

Annual Meeting: Temple Beth Emeth. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. Series brings wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 12

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Hosting Internet TV Show: JCC Seniors. Be heard as we host Tom McPhee's "Let's Hear It" Internet TV show which will be used to create a new documentary film. 1 p.m.

Family Fun Night: JCC-ECC. Families with young children will welcome in the Sabbath with dinner and music. Children from Lamb and Frog classrooms will sing their favorite songs learned this year. Open to all families with children under 5 years old. $10/adult; $5/child over 2 years. 6–7:30 p.m. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at ndeyoung@umich.edu or call 971-0990.

Film Discussion Group: JCC. Monthly ten-session group led by Russell Collins, Executive Director of the Michigan Theater and co-host of WEMU's Cinema Chat. Engage in lively discussion not only of movie plots and characters, but also of the unique cinematic elements that send subtle messages to viewers. Films, to be viewed on your own before the meeting dates, will include popular blockbusters, independent films, thought-provoking drama, intense thrillers, and more. $60/JCC members; $75/non-members. (Fee does not include cost of movie ticket.) Join by June 6 to receive notification of the June film selection. 7 p.m. on Second Thursday each month. To enroll, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intrigu-

ing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 13

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Shabbat Service Guest Speaker: TBE. Ari Marom, past president of Kehillat Tzur Hadassah, TBE's Sister Reform Temple in Israel, will speak at Shabbat Services. Marom works for a tour company, Vered HaSharon, as VP for Marketing and Sales, North America and has worked with Rabbi Levy on his March trip to Israel. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 14

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots aged 3–5 years old and parents. Led by Peretz Hirshbein and Jenn Levine with stories, songs and prayers. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: S*ee listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 15

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 16

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tuesday 17

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m , $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Showing of *Hitler's Pawn*, featuring the story of young Jewish athlete Gretel Bergmann, a Gold Medal contender in the high jump, who was used as a pawn by Hitler in his strategy to secure American participation in the Olympics in the face of a possible boycott. This is the last Movie Tuesday of the year. Coffee and noshes provided. Childcare available with advanced notice. 1–3 p.m.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Jewish Grief and Loss Support Group: JFS. Jewish Family Services and Arbor Hospice and Home Care convene a four-week bereavement support group with a Jewish focus for anyone who has recently experienced the loss of a loved one. Facilitated by Linda Bender, ACSW, LMSW, and clinical social worker at Arbor Hospice. Co-sponsored by the JCC, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, and the Jewish Cultural Society. 7–8:30 p.m. at the JCC. For more information or to register, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org. *Also June 24, July 1 and July 8.*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 18

Music Appreciation and Exploration: JCC Seniors. New Washtenaw Community College class at the JCC. With Ken Kozora. 10 a.m.–noon.

Taglit–Birthright Israel Hillel Reunion: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit: Get together with people with whom you just spent ten amazing days with in Israel. Share photos, food, and laughter. RSVP by June 17 to Mitch at 313-577-3459 or email hillelpd@wayne.edu.

Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: JCC. 6 p.m. For information, call 971-0990.

Meditation: TBE. Drop-in session. 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 19

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Film: JCC Seniors. Celebrate Israel at 60 with a look back in film and in discussion. The film "Israel: A Nation is Born" features Abba Eban. 1 p.m.

Camp Raanana Open House: JCC-Youth. Tour the camp site, meet counselors, enjoy kosher hot dog dinner and have fun with other campers. Independence Lake, 3200 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake. 6–8 p.m. For information, email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

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Calendar

Caregiver Conversations: JFS. Jewish Family Services convenes this monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children caring for aging parents. This month's session explores "Caregiving in an Imperfect Family," followed by discussion. 6:30–8 p.m. at the JCC. For more information or to RSVP, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Dinner and a Movie: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This month's film will recognize Torture Awareness Month. Join members for an engaging film followed by discussion and opportunities for action on this important issue. A dish to pass is welcome, not required. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and movie at 7 p.m. Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. For information, contact Jaime Philip at 663-1870 or email jaimie@umich,edu.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 20

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 21

Shabbat Yoga: BIC. Taught by Allison Stupka. 9 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 22

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Sponsored by TBE's Caring Community and open to adult couples, singles and children. Monthly hikes on different trails in the local area lasting approximately 1 ½–2 hours. Participants encouraged to bring backpacks, munchies and drinks. 11 a.m. For information, call Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645 or email jewishhikers@gmail.com or visit the website at http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan. BIC. 7 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 23

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tuesday 24

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Jewish Grief and Loss Support Group: JFS. *See June 17.*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 25

Music Appreciation and Exploration: JCC Seniors. New Washtenaw Community College class at the JCC. With Ken Kozora. 10 a.m.–noon.

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 26

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Sing-Along: JCC Seniors. Join Sue Wagner in a rousing sing-along accompanied on the piano.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 27

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni for 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Shabbat Under the Stars: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit. Celebrate Shabbat and make new friends while enjoying a yummy dinner under the stars. A pavilion will be set up in case of rain. Shabbat housing available upon request. $7/in advance. 7:30 p.m. at Jaycee Park, Webster between Phillips and Bacon Streets in Berkley. RSVP to Mitch by June 25 at 313-577-3459 or email hillelpd@wayne.edu.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 28

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 29

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*

Monday 30

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. Every Monda

July 2008

Tuesday 1

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Jewish Grief and Loss Support Group: JCC. Jewish Family Services and Arbor Hospice and Home Care convene a 4-week bereavement support group with a Jewish focus for anyone who ahs recently experienced the loss of a loved one. Facilitated by Linda Bender, ACSW, LMSW, and clinical social worker at Arbor Hospice. Co-sponsored by the JCC, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation and the Jewish Cultural Society. 7–8:30 p.m. for information, contact Abbie at 769-0209.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 2

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 3

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Birthdays and Israel is Born, Part 2: JCC Seniors. JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration at 12:30 p.m. with cake and ice cream for all with July birthdays. Family guests welcome. "Celebrate Israel at 60" with a film and discussion looking at how Israel was created as a state from 1948-1956. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 4

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 5

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 6

Monday 7

Tuesday 8

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m. (new time), $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Jewish Grief and Loss Support Group: JCC. *See July 1.*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 9

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

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Guest Presentation: JCC Seniors. "Trapshooting as a Hobby." Sid Lawrence, trapshooting enthusiast, discusses "What's a Jewish boy from Brooklyn doing at the shooting range?" Come learn about the fun of trapshooting and how to enjoy the sport safely. 1 p.m.

Film Discussion Group: JCC. 7 p.m. *See June 12.*

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 11

Summer in the City: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit. Summer in the City is a non-profit organization designed to improve and expand community service in metropolitan Detroit. Summer in the City projects include demolition, construction, painting, planting, working with elementary school students and working with the elderly. Have fun while improving the city and brightening someone's day. 9 a.m. Meet at Oak Park JCC, 15110 West 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. RSVP to Karen by July 10 at 313-577-3459 or email hilleled@wayne.edu.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 12

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots aged 3–5 years old and parents followed by a Tot Kiddush. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 13

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 14

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tuesday 15

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Israeli Scouts: JCC. Using song, dance and storytelling, the Israeli Scouts celebrate our Jewish heritage and bring the sights and sounds of Israel to life. The Friendship Caravan is part of a larger delegation of approximately 100 scouts who travel to North America each summer to represent the land of Israel. Reservations required. 6 p.m. pizza dinner. Performance at 7 p.m. Dinner cost for JCC members and camp families is $5/person or $15/family. Non-member cost is $7/person or $21/family. For information, email deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 16

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. Series brings wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 17

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Marc Lerner discusses "A Healthy Way to be Sick." He will talk about dealing with disability or chronic illness from the viewpoint of his own experience coping with MS and about his book-in-progress. 1 p.m.

Caregiver Conversations: JFS. Monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children caring for aging parents. This month's session explores "Dementia vs. Normal Memory Loss in Your Aging Parent." Whether your aging parents live independently or need full-time care in-home or in a residential facility, come and find solace and support among peers. 6:30–8 p.m. at the JCC. For more information, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 18

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 19

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 20

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Zoo Scavenger Hunt: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit. Meet at entrance to Detroit Zoo, 8450 West 10 Mile Road in Royal Oak for a quick bagel brunch and then it's off to the races. In teams, run around the zoo trying to answer some crazy questions. Winners will get prizes. RSVP to Mitch by July 17 at 313-577-3459 or email hillelpd@wayne.edu.

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Sponsored by TBE's Caring Community and open to all. 1 p.m. For information, call Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645 or email jewishhikers@gmail.com. *See June 22.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

17 of Tamuz: Chabad. Fast begins at 4:30 a.m. and ends at 9:50 p.m. Services at 8:30 p.m.

Monday 21

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tuesday 22

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m (new time), $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 23

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 24

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Guest Presentation: JCC Seniors. "Normal Memory Loss vs. Dementia." What is normal memory loss and what is dementia? What are the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's and other related diseases? Special guest speaker TBA. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 25

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 26

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services*: See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 27

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jews, Canoes and BBQ: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit. Relax lakeside and throw in some volleyball, frisbee, canoes, good people and old-fashioned BBQ. Meet at noon at Picnic Area G, near the boat rental at Kensington Park, 2240 West Buno Road in Milford. $5/person. Co-sponsored by Young Adult division of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. RSVP to Mitch by July 24 at 313-577-3459 or email hillelpd@wayne.edu.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 28

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tuesday 29

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. (new time); $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 30

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 31

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Sing-Along: JCC Seniors. Join Sue Wagner, accompanied on the piano, in a sing-along of old favorites. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday*

August 2008

Friday 1

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

My Stuffed Animal Tot Shabbat Dinner: BIC. For preschoolers and parents. 5:30 p.m.

Comedy Shabbat Dinner: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit. Dinner and laughs to bring in Shabbat with comedian Dan Ahdoot. Dan was a finalist on Season 2 on NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and has written for MTV, Crank Yankers and was featured on Comedy Central's *Premium Blend*. Co-sponsored with Temple Israel and B'nai B'rith Great Lakes Region. Services at 7:30 p.m. Dinner and comedy at 8:45 p.m. Shabbat housing is available upon request. Temple Israel, 5725 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield. RSVP by July 29 to Mitch at 313-577-3459 or email hillelpd@wayne.edu.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 2

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 3

Monday 4

Tuesday 5

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m. (new time), $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 6

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 7

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Birthdays and A Matter of Balance: JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with August birthdays. Bring family and friends for cake and ice cream at 12:30 p.m. Presentation at 1 p.m. by Neil Alexander, MD, professor of geriatric medicine and director of the Mobility Research Center at the UM Turner Geriatric Center. Do you have concerns about difficulty with walking, balance, falls and endurance? What changes can be made in your lifestyle to minimize falls?

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 8

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 9

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots ages 3–5 years old and parents. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Tisha B'Av Services: Chabad. 9:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 10

Tiosha B'Av Services: Chabad: 9 a.m. Afternoon and evening services at 8 p.m.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Movie on the Lawn: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit. One beautiful evening, some popcorn, good people and a great movie, *Everything is Illuminated,* projected on a screen. 8:30 p.m. Oak Park JCC, 15110 West 10 Mile Road. RSVP to Karen by August 7 to 313-577-3459 or email hilleled@wayne.edu.

Tisha B'Av Services: AAOM. 9:30 p.m. at UM Hillel.

Monday 11

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tisha B'Av Services: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. Mincha time TBD. UM Hillel.

Tuesday 12

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 13

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. Series brings wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 14

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. "The Digital Conversion–Are You Ready?" A speaker from WFUM, the UM television station, will discuss the myths and realities of the various options available to make the switch to digital TV. After the presentation, a SPICE program representative will be available to help participants sign up for a conversion box coupon from the state. 1 p.m.

Film Discussion Group: JCC Seniors. 7 p.m. *See June 12.*

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 15

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: BIC. Honoring the life of Joey Newhouse. 6 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 16

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 17

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Sponsored by TBE's Caring Community and open to all, single adults, couples, families with children. Approximately 1–1 ½ hours 11 a.m. For information, call Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645 or email jewishhikers@gmail.com. Website at http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 18

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

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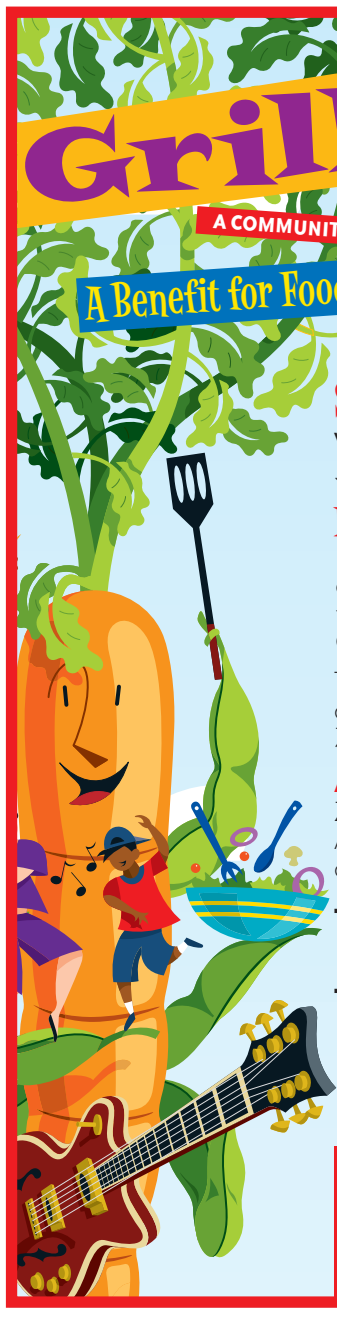

Grillin' 08

A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION THAT FIGHTS HUNGER WHERE WE LIVE

A Benefit for Food Gatherers

Sunday, June 8 3 – 8 PM (rain or shine)

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.

Food! Music! Fun!

Delicious food, family fun, food inspired silent auction and live music from Michael Smith and the Cadillac Cowboys, The Ragbirds and George Bedard and the Kingpins.

To purchase advance tickets, visit our website at www.foodgatherers.org or call us at 734-761-2796.

Additional ticket sales locations:
Zingerman's (Deli, Bakehouse or Roadhouse) in Ann Arbor, as well as Saline Picture Frame Co. and Dexter Picture Frame Co.

Tickets: $50/Adults ($45 tax-deductible)
$10/Kids ($8 tax-deductible)

Tickets at the door: $60 Adults/$10 Kids

Food Gatherers is the not-for-profit food rescue and food bank program serving Washtenaw County.

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Calendar

Tuesday 19

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m (new time), $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 20

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 21

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Music Performance: JCC Seniors. UM vocal performance faculty member Caroline Hilton will perform music by popular Jewish composers. 1 p.m.

Israel @ 60 Community-Wide Celebration at the State Fair: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit. Celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary with 15,000 people from Detroit and neighboring Jewish communities. The Jewish community will have exclusive use of the State Fairgrounds, including rides and attractions, the day before it opens to the general public. $15/person. State Fairgrounds, 1120 West State Fair Avenue, Detroit. 3 p.m. For more information, visit jewishdetroit.org/israelsixty.

Caregiver Conversations: JFS. Monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children caring for aging parents. This month's topic: Options for Respite and Emergency Care, followed by discussion. Co-sponsored by the JCC, the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, and the Jewish Cultural Society. 6:30–8 p.m. at the JCC. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Abbie at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 22

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Shabbat in the Park: BIC. Dairy potluck dinner preceded by Kabbalat Shabbat Services. 6 p.m. at County Farm Park.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 23

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 24

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 25

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

Tuesday 26

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m. (new time); $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and poker, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yiddish Speaking Group: JCC Seniors. 1:30 p.m. at U-M Michigan League. For information, call 761-2765.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 27

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Thursday 28

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Music Performance: JCC Seniors. A trio of young, talented Ann Arbor high school and college musicians will perform on the violin, flute and classical guitar. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 29

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for directions. For information, call 971-0990.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 30

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of alendar.*

Sunday 31

Baseball Game: Tigers vs. Kansas City: EMU Hillel and Hillel of Metro Detroit. Check out the Tigers' all-star line-up as they take on the Kansas City Royals at Comerica Park, 2100 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. $15/ticket. Limited tickets available. Must pay in advance to receive tickets. 1 p.m. RSVP to Mitch by August 20 to 313-577-3459 or email hillelpd@wayne.edu.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. 7:30 p.m. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and meals. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:45 p.m.; Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candlelighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services and classes

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Maariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvor Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. U-M Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Mincha.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and *yom tov* (Jewish holiday). Call 995-3276 in advance.

"Mystical Insights to the Torah:" Chabad. For women to learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. Saturday, one hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

"Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:" Chabad. Study group examines the code of law for Shabbat and Jewish ethics. Saturday, 1/2 hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 663-4039

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

U-M Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

June 6	7:49 p.m.
June 13	7:52 p.m.
June 20	7:55 p.m.
June 27	7:55 p.m.
July 4	7:54 p.m.
July 11	7:51 p.m.
July 18	7:47 p.m.
July 25	7:41 p.m.
August 1	7:33 p.m.
August 8	7:25 p.m.
August 15	7:15 p.m.
August 22	7:04 p.m.
August 29	6:53 p.m.

Classifieds

Artists wanted: mature artists sought for residency program in historic Ann Arbor mansion (actors, musicians, writers, visual). Email: info@a2vitosha.com with brief bio and availability. 741-4969, ask for "Kei."

Jewish lodging: Vitosha Guest Haus, Ann Arbor, caters to kosher and vegan guests, accommodate up to 28 guests family-style for bar/bat mitzvahs, seminars and conferences. NYT, chess boards, reading nooks available. Reservations: www.a2vitosha.com or 741-4969.

Recital Hall available: professional Hall in historic mansion, U-M central campus. Pipe organ and baby grand, student rates. Email: info@a2vitosha.com, or call 741-4969.

Responsible family of four with local ties seeks furnished living space to rent/sublet/housesit for 2–3 week visit this summer. Late June to mid-July. Dates flexible. Please contact naomigurtlind@gmail.com

Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor (K-5) is seeking a half-time (morning) Hebrew language assistant to join the Gan teaching team. He or she will be responsible for general classroom assistance as well as formal and informal Hebrew language instruction. Please send resume and job application form (www.hdsaa.org) to headofschool@hdsaa.org or 2937 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor, MI, 48108.

ACT, PSAT & SAT – Private Tutoring and Development of Test-Taking Skills. We have been preparing students in Ann Arbor for over 20 years. EXCEL Test Preparation, 1117 South University, 996-1500. We also tutor in Math & Science and prepare for GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT & DAT.

Job Opening: Event Planner and Volunteer Coordinator for Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, part-time. Will work closely with Havurah Board and other volunteers to plan and coordinate Shabbat and festival events. Must be well-organized, able to work independently, and good at motivating others. Details at: www.aarecon.org/coordinator.html or by email: hiring@aarecon.org.

Elementary School Teacher, Judaics and Hebrew Studies

The David S. Stone Hebrew Academy, a K-5 community day school offering a 40+ year history of academic excellence, seeks a dynamic and creative educator to teach K &1st grade Judaics and Hebrew Studies for 2008-2009. The Academy is managed by the Toledo Board of Jewish Education, a member organization of the United Jewish Council and is located on the Jewish Community Campus in Sylvania, also home to the JCC/YMCA.

Ideal qualifications include a B.A. in education or similar Judaics teaching certification, basic Hebrew skills, strong Judaic background, familiarity with differentiated instruction, ability to establish effective working relationships with students, teachers, staff and families in a team-based environment.

Qualified candidates should submit cover letter and resume to Dr. Bohleke, Principal, Stone Hebrew Academy, 6465 Sylvania Ave., Sylvania, OH 43560 or to leeanne@jewishtoledo.org.

Functional computers needed for Jewish Family Services resettlement and employment clients, 769-0209.

Volunteer with JFS! Visitors, tutors, special events, and office support needed, 769-0209.

Just starting a new service or business? Furniture to sell? Looking for a handyman or roommate? *The Washtenaw Jewish News* classifieds is the answer! Only $3/line enables you to reach over 5,000 readers. Ads can be emailed to wjneditor@gmail.com or call 971-1800.

The deadline for the *Washtenaw Jewish News Guide to Jewish Life* is Monday, June 16. Publication date: August 2008.

Reserve your ad space now for the *2008 Guide to Jewish Life.* There's no better way to reach this great market. Rates and ad specifications available at washtenawjewishnews.org. Call Gordon White at 971-1800 for more details.

Students, continued from page 15

who send out welcome letters to incoming Jewish students. In practice, however, other factors are involved.

Keith Dvorchik is the executive director of Hillel at the University of Florida in Gainesville, with 6,500 Jewish undergraduates. Dvorchik says he receives 100 to 150 names each summer from Hillel, the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and a handful of synagogues. He sends a welcome e-mail to each student, and says the system works pretty well for him.

Arlene Miller, the executive director of Hillel at the University of California at Los Angeles, says local Jewish communities should be more involved. Miller did receive names from Hillel last year, but most of her incoming Jewish students come from the Los Angeles area, and she says she receives little cooperation from local synagogues, youth groups and Jewish high schools.

"There's no orchestrated system, so we have to be proactive," Miller says. "There's a lot more that could be done by the community to bridge the gap."

Outreach efforts have intensified in the past two years with the introduction of Chai Wire and JESNA asking the heads of its 55 community Hebrew high schools to send the names of graduating seniors to the Hillel directors of the schools to which they were headed.

Devorah Silverman, who heads that project at JESNA, says the Hebrew high schools sent about 350 names last year.

Last year, the Orthodox Union also launched an internal effort to funnel Orthodox high school students to appropriate Jewish groups on campus.

"For 15 years I've been telling the O.U. they need to do this," says David Felsenthal, who heads the O.U.'s new alumni department of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth.

Some 6,000 high school seniors are involved either in NCSY or in Jewish Student Unions, the O.U.-sponsored Jewish clubs in public schools. Felsenthal says he had 300 names by May 1; his goal is 1,000 by the end of the month.

Next year Felsenthal will move from collecting and funneling names to actually steering students to campuses with strong Orthodox life. He hopes to hire a field representative who will meet with Orthodox high school seniors and direct them to one of the 15 or 16 schools that host emissary couples affiliated with the O.U.'s Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus project.

Chabad does its own outreach to incoming freshmen, says Rabbi Hershey Novack, the co-director of Chabad at Washington University in St. Louis. Community Chabad emissaries tell campus emissaries about incoming freshmen via an internal Chabad online system, and the 125 Chabad college representatives do personal outreach to the new students when they reach campus.

Novack says the tight-knit nature of the Chabad family helps. He usually knows the Chabad rabbi that refers his incoming students, "so we already have a personal connection."

Collecting and passing on names is only part of the overall effort to involve Jewish students in Jewish life on campus, however.

"Honestly, even if a Hillel director follows up, that doesn't mean the kids will be meaningfully engaged," Silverman of JESNA admits. "But it's a start." ■

Around Town

Real estate is not just location, location

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

Conventional wisdom has shifted in real estate. According to **Michal Porath** (395-0650) of Edward Surovell Realtors, "condition has become more important than it ever was before. Price and condition have become as important or more important than location in many cases." Buyers are no longer interested in fixer-uppers or transforming a home; they want to find the right home in superb condition. In this market, they can. **Ilene Friedland** (358-7089) of Reinhart Realtors agrees: "Prices have never been better; it's a wonderful time to buy." **Miriam Weininger** (971-3333), also with Surovell, agrees, further explaining that "the people who are doing great… are my buyers who have moved up… they take a little bit of a loss on their [old] houses, but the houses they bought in the $800[,000] s were original $1.5 million."

Unfortunately, Michigan ranks third in the nation for mortgage fraud, which can devastate both buyers and sellers. Even in the absence of fraud, it is very important that buyers protect themselves from any unknown leans, associations, charges, or delinquent taxes encumbering the property. **Christopher Sevick** of the Law Offices of **Christopher Sevick, PLC**, (480-9100) explains that buyers should contact a lawyer specializing in real estate before signing a purchase agreement, but after they've decided to make an offer. Sellers using a real estate agent can wait until they have a solid offer to contact an attorney, but families selling their own homes should contact a real estate attorney before they even list the home, in order to be sure they've properly handled all disclosures.

Sevick advises buyers to always get the help of a licensed realtor: "Their services are provided free of charge to the buyer. Use them as your tool in saving time, energy, and stress in finding the home that you're looking for." Porath offers similar advice, noting that the buyer's agent and buyer work in a partnership. A good agent knows the market and neighborhoods, but is more importantly a good listener, that "can take what they hear, and then take it a step further."

Many house-hunters, she notes, begin with a list of must-haves, but that list is forgotten once they walk into a house and realize "This is the place I want to come home to."

Constant news about the "real estate meltdown" has many sellers panicked. Weininger advises "If you don't have to sell, wait—I don't expect the market to get better for at least three or four years. But who knows? This is just crystal-ball stuff." Nonetheless, Porath always reminds sellers that "it's really important to understand that generalities about the market don't necessarily apply to their particular home." An appropriately priced home in excellent condition will sell.

In order to set an appropriate price, sellers need to have good data. This includes an accurate comparable market analysis on the home, a current survey of all homes actively on the market, and the absorption rate in your area (i.e. the rate at which properties similar to the seller's are being bought). Porath says that "the data will show that when people price the home close to what they expect it to sell at, they are going to get closer to what they were asking than if they price it high, and they will get it in a shorter period of time."

As for the condition of the home, Friedland notes "a good realtor can come in and tell you what improvements will enhance the home." Sevick expands on this, "Little things make a huge difference in first impressions in the home: clean up the yard, rake it, put a fresh coat of paint in the kitchen, clean up any pet odors. With so many houses for sale right now, you need to make your house stand out."

For homeowners looking to dress up their property, Barry Margolis of **Margolis Nursery** (482-0771) suggests planting perennials; adding some vibrant color to the landscape will give an immediate effect. Margolis runs a variety of shrub and perennial promotions throughout the summer, as well as frequent discounts on Unilock pavers and retaining-wall stone. Similarly, **McLennan Landscape and Nursery** (428-7005) has their June potted tree sale, as well as a summer mulch sale ($2 off per cubic yard—adding mulch around trees, under shrubs, and in flower beds gives a clean, professionally landscaped look). All McLennan plants are 20 percent off if you waive the one-year warranty. Owners needing to replace your floor coverings should check in with one of the three **Merkel Carpet One** (971-2795) locations for special pricing on Merkel's eco-friendly line of nylon, bamboo, and cork flooring. ■

Europe-Israel ties, continued from page 21

In 2004 and 2007, the European Union extended membership to 11 post-communist countries that are notably more pro-American and pro-Israel than older E.U. members. These countries, associating inaction with appeasement and noting their suffering under the Soviets, don't share Western Europe's aversion to Israeli military actions.

In Madrid in 2004 and in London the next year, deadly terrorist attacks by Islamic extremists gave European leaders a better sense of what Israel was facing.

Perhaps most important, Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip in 2005 dispelled the European conception that Israel is unwilling to make sacrifices for peace.

"Israel's formal acceptance of the two-state solution cemented a new, closer understanding between top-level Israeli and European politicians," Curiel said.

But many European politicians remain upset about Israeli settlement activity and Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, according to the vice president of the European Parliament, Britain's Edward McMillon Scott.

"If Israel can pull out of Gaza, Israel can pull out of the occupied territories," he told JTA. "Yes, it is true there is more cooperation on the institutional level—call it normalization—but after the invasion of southern Lebanon, I think many of us thought Israel had lost its bearings."

Some other sticking points remain. The European Union refuses to label Lebanon's Hezbollah a terrorist organization, E.U. funds go to anti-Israel nongovernmental organizations, and Israel wants Europe to do more to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Still, Israeli diplomats say, their concerns at least are being heard, even if they are not all being addressed. ■

Vitals

Mazal tov

Warren and Dana Shear on the birth of their son.
Nancy and Martin Zimmerman on the birth of their granddaughter, and Jonathan Zimmerman and Maya Lodish on the birth of their daughter, Isabelle Nora.
Betty and Eric Rabkin on the birth of their granddaughter, and Rachel and Russ Pechman on the birth of their daughter, Lena Ariel Pechman, March 15.
Elise and Jerry Herman on the birth of their grandson, and Jennifer and Neil Stiber on the birth of their son, Yonah Stiber, March 18.
Joanne and Larry Smith on the birth of their grandson, and Emily and Dewayne Bradley on the birth of their son, Owen Kenneth Bradley, April 15.
Johanna and Deanna Mabry on the birth of their daughter Elianna Hope, April 17.
Jordan Wagner and Lindsey Fox on their recent engagement. Jordan is the son of Marvin and Sue Wagner.
Bennett Stein, Rafe Scobey Thal, and Yoni Siden on being named *Ann Arbor News* Young Citizens of the Year finalists.
Jacob Leflein on his bar mitzvah, June 7.
Sarah Zimmerman on her bat mitzvah, June 14.
Tamar Cohen on her bat mitzvah, June 7.
Rebecca Barnett on her bat mitzvah, June 7.
Gabe Solomon on his bar mitzvah, June 14.
Guy Frydenlund on his bar mitzvah, June 14.
Shoshana Goldberg on her bat mitzvah, June 21.
Nicholas Black Elk on his bar mitzvah, June 21.
Joseph Fox on his bar mitzvah, June 21.
Michael Avi-Yonah on his bar mitzvah in Israel, June 28.
Gabrielle Zacks on her bat mitzvah, August 16.
Adina Nadler on her bat mitzvah, August 23.
Shaqed Gurfeld on his bar mitzvah, August 30.

Condolences

Marilyn Berk on the death of her mother, Hedy Lukon.
Jeffrey L. Bernstein on the death of his grandmother, Yetta Lerner.
Gail Sugar on the death of her father, Barney J. Schwartz, April 7.
Allan Bloom on the death of his father, Saul H. Bloom, April 16.
Charles Gelman on the death of his brother, Mitchell Gelman.
Pamela Landau on the death of her father, Max Stryer.

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Zingerman's 10

Ages and Stages of Adoption
Sunday, June 8, 2008
1:00- 3:00 pm at the JCC

Dr. Jerri Jenista shares her professional expertise about the ages and stages of adoption. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions, meet with other adoptive parents and pick up adoption related materials.
Child care will be provided on site.

Please **RSVP** to Lisa at lisa@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Angry teen?

Increase emotional self-awareness and reduce impulsive behaviors through an 8-week skills-based group for teens 14 - 18 entitled ***The Healthy Anger Project***.

The next session will begin in June by ***Eileen Dzik, LMSW*** in collaboration with ***Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County***.

For more information and to find out about start dates and times, contact ***Eileen*** at ***erdzik@gmail.com*** or call at ***355-3765***.

Dates and times are also available at ***www.jfsannarbor.org***.

Like to talk on the phone? Like to schmooze?
Jewish Family Services needs you!

Join Jewish Family Services' Friendly Visitors and Phone Friends Volunteer Corps!

- Weekly Friendly visits to seniors - conversation & companionship
- Daily or weekly quick phone calls to "check-in" on seniors

For more info contact Deborah at 769-0209 or deborah@jfsannarbor.org.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

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Keen Targhee II Mid: built for year-round fun.

- *Backpacker Magazine "Best Buy 2008"*

Waterproof
Men's & Women's sizes

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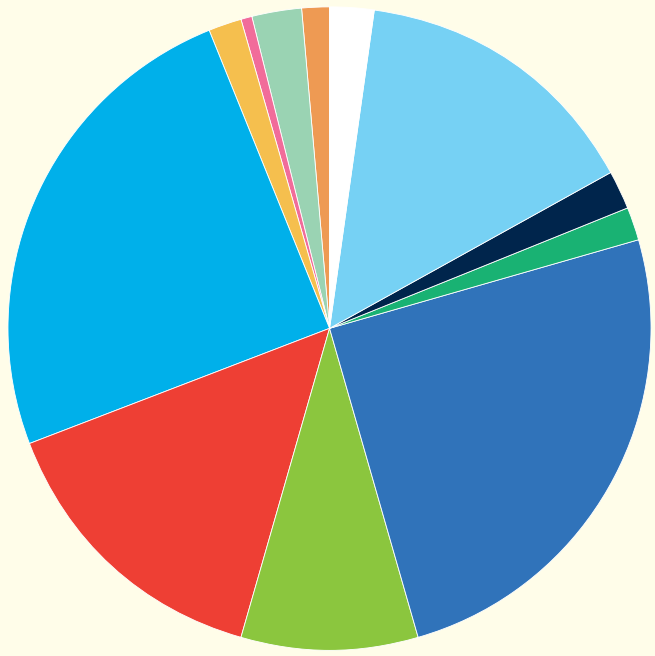
FOCUS ON LOCAL

55.82% of all money raised in the 2008 Annual Campaign and 100% of Matching Grant funds will stay right here in Washtenaw County. Your gift makes so many lives better. Thank you.

Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County

2008 Annual Campaign Local Allocations

Total: $713,936



- Summer Camp Scholarships: $9,800
- Keshet Ann Arbor: $16,346
- Jewish Fed. Missions/Leadership Devel.: $4,508
- Jewish Federation Reserve Fund: $12,250
- Jewish Federation (non-campaign): $174,838
- Jewish Family Services: $103,880
- Jewish Community Foundation: $62,985
- Jewish Community Center: $176,400
- Hillel, EMU: $12,250
- Hillel, U-M: $13,524
- Hebrew Day School: $104,860
- Council of Jewish Educators: $5,880

Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County

Special Matching Grant Allocations

Total: $100,000

new!

Community-wide Tu B'shevat
Jewish Cultural Society: $5,225
Interactive Tu B'Shevat program for famlies and adults celebrating the history, culture, rituals and spiritual meanings of the holiday, as well as current relevant social/environmental concerns.

Voices of Youth | ***Washtenaw Jewish News: $8,000***
Collaborative program between WJN and local youth programs that gives local youth the opportunity to express themselves Jewishly through writing or visual arts.

Community Shaliach | ***Jewish Federation: $20,000***
Jewish Agency Volunteer Shaliach (emissary) will plan Israel-related programming throughout the community, including local religious schools, HDS, Keshet and the Jewish Community Center.

ECC, Youth & Camp Enhancements
Jewish Community Ctr.: $6,315
Equipment and furnishings to improve the ECC, summer camp and youth programs.

Office Renovation | ***Jewish Community Center: $25,000***
Create conference space and more office space for the growing JCC and tenant staff.

National Accreditation | ***Jewish Family Services: $16,145***
Cover 1/3 of the cost of JFS' work to gain national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

Jewish Youth and Family Support
Jewish Family Services: $6,315
Program to promote awareness of and provide resources and support systems for issues facing youth and families within the Jewish community.

Start-up Funding for Michigan Israel Business Bridge
$5,000
Support from the Ann Arbor Jewish community for new organization focused on building bridges between Michigan and Israeli businesses for the benefit of both.

Teaching Native Hebrew Speakers
Hebrew Day School: $8,000
Pilot program to help native Hebrew speakers at HDS learn Hebrew at an advanced level.

Jewish Federation of washtenaw county